

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

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BIRTH.

On the 3rd December, at "Bicton," the Pea, the wife of G. C. MOXON, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 11th November, at the British Consulate, Kobe, by J. Carey Hall, Esq., H.B.M.'s Consul, and afterwards at the Catholic Church, Kobe, by the Rev. Père Fage, assisted by the Rev. Père Perrin, JOHN JAMES HAMILTON FAWKNER, of Warrumbul, Victoria, Australia, to MAY CATHERINE, eldest daughter of MARTIN JAMES SHEA, of Kobe.

On the 23rd November, at the British Consulate, Nagasaki, and afterwards at the English Church, by the Right Rev. Henry Eyington, Bishop of Kyushu, assisted by the Rev. A. R. Fuller, JAMES HISLOP WALLACE, to GUSTINE CARRICK, only daughter of the late JAMES SMITH, of Ayr, Scotland.

On the 25th November, 1899, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., the Rev. EDWARD THOMPSON, C.V.S., to CLARA ELIZABETH, daughter of T. I. CHAMBERLAIN, Esq., of Dover, England.

On the 29th November, 1899, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., LESLIE JARY UBITT, to ETHEL FORTESCUE YONGE.

On Thursday, the 30th November, 1899, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, SIDNEY, second son of Henry KEYSILL, H.E.I.C.S., to ISABEL MARGARET, widow of the late John FOWLER, of Bombay.

DEATHS.

On Sunday night, the 3rd December, at the Government Civil Hospital, EMIL WIEWELS, a native of Trier and late with Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., Canton.

On Sunday, the 3rd December, 1899, at his residence, Kowloon, HENRY JAMES HOLMES, Solicitor, aged 57 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The Canadian mail of the 10th November arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 3rd December (23 days); and the French

mail of the 3rd November arrived, per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, on the 3rd December (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A motion has been filed in H.B.M.'s Supreme Court at Shanghai for a rehearing of the case of Joly v. Sun Life Office of Canada.

It is reported that the Korean Imperial Household Department has engaged an English female physician at a salary of 300 yen per month.

News has been received at Shanghai by wire that from the 17th to the 28th November no fresh cases of plague were reported at Newchwang.

Mr. Bax-Ironside, who was Charge d'Affaires at Peking during the absence of Sir Claude MacDonald is a passenger homeward by the P. & O. steamer *Clyde*.

A bill has been introduced into the American Congress authorising the laying of a cable across the Pacific to Honolulu, the Philippines, China, and Japan.

In the annual message of the President of the United States it is stated that China is still a subject of diplomatic discussion. The message also states that the United States cannot abandon the Philippines.

In consequence of the appearance of the plague in Japan a crusade against rats is to be undertaken. Official instructions are to be issued throughout the Empire requesting owners of houses to use every effort to destroy these animals, as they are believed to be instrumental in spreading the plague.

It is reported at Canton that the Viceroy Tan Chang-lin is about to retire. The report excites no regret amongst the public, for His Excellency is suffering from the infirmities of old age, and is useless for his position in these days when a strong hand is required to crush out the brigandage with which the provinces are infested.

Li Hung-chang has been appointed Investigating Commissioner of commercial matters in the Treaty Ports. His duties will be to follow up the work of Kang Yi, who was referred to in his recent tour as the Lord High Extortioner, and induce the provinces to contribute more liberally to the Imperial needs.

The China Navigation Company's steamer *Hupek* has been lost on a voyage from Passaroon, Java, to Hongkong. She encountered a violent gale on the 15th November, continuing to the 18th, which caused the vessel to list dangerously, and finally she foundered. All the Europeans on board, eight in number, together with seven Chinese, reached one of the Philippine Islands in safety, but forty seven Chinese, who left the vessel on rafts contrary to the captain's advice, were lost.

H.E. Sheng, Director-General of Railways has been appointed Imperial High Commissioner with plenary powers to consult on the question of tariff revision with the Treaty Powers. A London telegram to the *Daily Press* says that the merchants interested in the China trade demand that before the question is opened China shall give adequate pledges to observe the treaties and cease levying arbitrary taxation.

A telegram from London has been received by the Superintendent of the P. & O. Company informing him that Mr. Frederick Dallas Barnes, Managing Director of the P. & O. Company in London, expired quite suddenly on 30th November. Mr. Dallas Barnes was the agent of the Company at Shanghai about twenty-five years ago.

The Hongkong Sanitary Board has passed a resolution proposing the creation of a Trust to be endowed with funds by the Government and to be charged with the duty of carrying out sanitary improvements in the city, especially in the matter of the abolition of insanitary areas and overcrowding.

The U.S. transport *Sikh*, whilst leaving Nagasaki harbour on the 27th November, ran across the bows of the British sailing ship *Sebastian Bach*, carrying away the latter's bowsprit. After remaining locked for an hour and a half, the steamer managed to disengage herself and then proceeded on her journey. A claim for damages has been made by the captain of the sailing-ship.—*Nagasaki Press*.

Mr. H. A. Ramsden, the British Vice-Consul at Manila, went down town the other day in a jinricksha, the first ever seen in Manila. The *Manila Times* devotes more than a column to the occurrence, giving its account the following headings:—"A Marvel in Manila.—Jinrickshas appear on the Escorta, to the immense astonishment of the natives.—British Consulate uniforms.—Filipinos crowded around to see the little swift carriage as if it was a circus."

A Chungking dispatch states that Wang Yu-tsao, Governor of Kweichow, is seriously ill and utterly unable to attend to his duties. This is the official whose anti-foreign proclivities and apathy are alleged to have been the cause of the murder of the late Mr. Fleming and the difficulty which has been experienced in bringing his murderers to book. It is probable that a new Governor will shortly be appointed to take Wang Yu-tsao's place.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Bangkok Times* says:—"We are pleased to be able to state authoritatively that although several applications have been made to His Majesty's Government from time to time, no concession has been granted to anyone for the National Bank of Siam. The news was telegraphed here from Hamburg, and was exciting a good deal of comment locally before we published it. But, as we stated at the time, such a step was at least highly improbable. The statement was quite definite, but it is possible the wire was sent for the purpose of ascertaining how such an announcement would be received. Anyhow it is not true."

A Havas telegram published in the *Echo de Chine* gives a fuller account of M. Delcassé's recent exposition of French policy in China than has hitherto been published. M. Delcassé said it was important for France that China should not undertake to open to any exclusive foreign influence the provinces bordering on the French colony of Indo-China. France ought to give her support to keeping China open to all foreign enterprise. France had sustained no loss in China. (Applause). M. Delcassé added that France ought not to seek to extend her colonies but to exploit her possessions. The alliance with Russia, he said, assured the security of the present. The two allies were working together on plans for the future.

THE CHINESE TARIFF QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 8th December.)

From the telegram from our London correspondent published to-day it will be seen that the merchants interested in the China trade demand that before the tariff question is re-opened China shall give adequate pledges that she will observe the treaties and cease levying arbitrary taxation. The representative mercantile bodies long ago expressed their willingness to assent to a substantial increase of the tariff, but on the condition that payment of the tariff duties freed the goods from all further charges. This condition was unpalatable to China, whose governing class is firmly wedded to the system of levying arbitrary and irregular exactions on trade, that being the system by which officials grow rich. The country is now, however, feeling the pinch of financial necessity and something has to be done to raise the wind. An increase of the Customs tariff is the readiest expedient and formal proposals to that effect have been made. The discussion of the question was awaiting the return of Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD to Peking, and it is understood that his instructions are to insist on a complete reform of inland taxation as one of the conditions. The question stands in much the same position as it did thirty years ago. In the convention negotiated by Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK in 1869 it was provided that imports should pay both import duty and transit dues simultaneously at the time of importation, and should thereafter be exempt from all other taxes and charges whatsoever in Treaty port provinces. The merchants, while recognising the abstract advantages of the proposed arrangement, urged that there was no guarantee that China would fulfil her share of the bargain, but that, on the contrary, it was morally certain that the payment of import duty and transit dues simultaneously would amount simply to an increase of the import duty, and that the goods would continue as theretofore to be subject to irregular inland charges. This argument prevailed and ratification of the convention was refused by the British Government. No greater confidence is felt in the Chinese Government and its promises now than was felt then, and the question therefore is, What pledges can be obtained that would justify the Treaty Powers in agreeing to an increase of the tariff? We do not altogether despair of such pledges being forthcoming, not immediately perhaps, but at no very distant period. It will be noted from our telegram that the President of the United States in his annual message to Congress stated that China still remains the subject of diplomatic discussion. The result of that discussion will no doubt be that some measure of foreign control will be introduced into the Chinese administration, and when that is effected the undertaking of the Government that goods that have paid import duty and transit dues shall be free of all further exactions may be readily accepted. This would naturally involve the complete reform of inland taxation. All parties are agreed that such reform would greatly stimulate the trade of the country.

There was a big blaze at Honam on the evening of the 6th inst. The fire broke out at about four o'clock in a mat-shed which had formerly been used as a police station, and the flames rapidly spread to the neighbouring houses. It was after seven o'clock before the fire was got under, and by that time thirty houses had been destroyed.

A SILVERITE VIEW OF THE GOLD STANDARD IN THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 5th December.)

An amusing article on the proposed introduction of the gold standard in Siam appears in the *London and China Express* of the 3rd November. The article commences by saying that "silver having shown a tendency to remain fairly steady in the neighbourhood of 27½d. an ounce, its enemies are, naturally, preparing a fresh attack." The writer evidently regards the question as one of sentiment rather than as one of business, and he treats it on that ground. The introduction of sentiment into business naturally leads to confusion and inaccuracy, and instances of this are not wanting in the article under notice. Who are the enemies of silver to whom reference is made? Whoever they may be, we should not expect to find them in Siam, a country whose present standard is silver and which could consequently have no interest in depreciating that metal. Siam's judgment may be right or wrong, but there can be no mistake as to her motive. If she makes the suggested change from silver to gold it will be solely on the ground of self-interest, and not out of any enmity to silver. This absurd suggestion of a sentimental hostility to silver runs all through the article and discounts such arguments as are advanced.

We have the familiar statement again brought forward that silver has proved itself a far more stable standard of value, in relation to commodities, than gold. If that be so, how is it that all silver salaries paid to Europeans in the Far East have had to be adjusted in relation to gold, either by a definite increase in silver or by granting exchange compensation? If the writer of the *London and China Express* article were working on a salary paid in silver we feel well assured that he would think himself very hardly dealt with if the decline in the value of that metal were not taken into account. Next we come to the statement that, notwithstanding the fall in silver, the trade of countries possessing the silver standard grew and prospered, while in gold countries prices were falling, trade and commerce languished, and gloom and depression prevailed. That may be considered rather a nicely turned sentence, but unfortunately it is entirely contrary to the facts of the case. Compare the present state of trade and commerce in Great Britain, the United States, Germany, or France, with what it was twenty-five years ago; then make a similar comparison with regard to an equal number of representative silver countries, and say whether the comparison results more favourably for silver or for gold. In Great Britain the condition of the working classes to-day shows a great advance on what it was twenty-five years ago, whereas in China the condition of the corresponding class, away from the Treaty Ports, shows no improvement whatever, but rather the reverse. The difference is not to be ascribed wholly or chiefly to currency variations, but the comparison disposes effectually of the glib statement of the *London and China Express* writer. Next we have the statement that silver "remains the currency of India, although the mints have been closed against it, and an imaginary gold standard set up by giving certain silver discs which are worth, intrinsically, about 10½d., an imaginary gold value of 1s. 4d. As they were really worth 1s. 4d. before the mints were closed, the advantage of the operation is obscure, unless, indeed, contraction of currency be an advantage." The question

turns, not on what the rupee was worth before the mints were closed, but what it would have been worth now had they not been closed. The difference between a ten-penny and a one-and-fourpenny rupee appears rather considerable, and the argument that the difference really means nothing at all is too absurd to call for serious reply.

What has chiefly excited the choler of our contemporary is our statement that the proposed change in Siam, if effected, will "hasten the inevitable change in China" as well. No doubt the introduction of the gold standard into China is an operation that will demand much serious consideration, and as to the ways and means and the time for effecting the change there is room for almost endless discussion, but no one, we think, can entertain any doubt that the change will come sometime. China cannot always remain in her present unprogressive state, and when she once fairly enters upon a career of progress the reform of her currency will be one of the questions that will command the attention of her statesmen. Speaking not with reference to China in particular, but the world at large, it will be readily admitted that a universal monetary standard is a commercial desideratum, and to that goal modern financial policy is tending. Special interests may suffer by the change, and, like the *London and China Express*, set it all down to hatred and malice, but the world at large will gain. For our own part, we long entertained the belief that bimetallicism would triumph in the long run, but bimetallicism being now a lost cause, and the choice being confined to gold and silver, the preponderance of advantage lies with gold. The fact that China has now a large gold debt constitutes a very good reason why that country should select the yellow metal as her standard. We in Hongkong know by experience how costly it is to borrow in gold while the currency of the colony is silver.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD ON RUSSIA AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, 7th November.)

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD in the course of one of his recent speeches said he was told by a Russian that if a British squadron had been ordered to Port Arthur at the time when it was leased to Russia the Russian fleet had orders to steam out, in order to avoid complications and war with England. His Lordship added that he honestly believed nothing we had then done would have induced the Russians to go to war, because they were not ready. That might or might not have proved to be the case, but the policy of bluff is attended by serious risks and is not one to be commended. We were told quite recently that if the British Government only displayed firmness there would not be a shot fired in South Africa. The British Government did display firmness, and war is the result, as the Government itself must have anticipated. The war is a righteous one, and one from which the country could not shrink when the issue was forced upon us, but it altogether discredits the advocates of a policy of bluff, a policy which, it is to be hoped, Great Britain will always consistently avoid. When demands are preferred we should be prepared to back them up by force if necessary; if not, it will be more consistent with prudence and dignity not to prefer the demands at all. As to the particular case mentioned by LORD CHARLES BERESFORD, it is very possible that the Russians might have elected not to wage an unequal contest with the British fleet, but if what

value would our seeming success have been? Lord CHARLES BERESFORD himself, in the speech he made at the banquet given to him by the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League, told us that the question of the Russian advance in the north was essentially a military question. "You may," he said, "double your fleet out here; you may send fifteen ships like the *Victorious* out here and forty destroyers. What has that to do with the advancement of Russia to the south? It is, I say, a military and not a naval question." Being a military question, what profit would the temporary withdrawal of the Russian fleet from Port Arthur have brought us? Russia would in the meantime have exacted satisfaction from China away from the seaboard, where our fleet could not have reached her, and would subsequently have reappeared at Port Arthur, when the opportunity again offered. The Boer war is costing Great Britain a considerable effort. A war with Russia, if any lasting result were to be achieved, would cost a still greater effort. Circumstances may arise rendering such a war necessary, and in that case we may enter upon it with a clear conscience and firm resolution. But it would be truly lamentable to allow ourselves to become involved in such a conflict without due consideration and simply as the consequence of pursuing a policy of bluff. It is to be hoped, too, that if Great Britain and Russia ever do become involved in war it will not be through the former championing the cause of barbarism against civilisation.

THE KIAOCHAU CUSTOMS RETURNS.

(Daily Press, 2nd December.)

The Chinese Customs returns for the July-September quarter include for the first time the returns of the German colony of Kiaochow. The covering despatch of the Commissioner, Mr. E. OHLMER, contains the following passage:—"The Custom-house was opened on the 1st July, 1899. The collection of tariff import and export duty and Convention lekin on opium, and the collection of Native duties and lekin on junk cargoes at half tariff rates, commenced on that day. The stations at present provisionally controlled by the Kiaochow Customs are known as Tupotou, Ling-shanwei (including Tachiangkou), Nuku, Taugkou, and Shatzkou (including Tengyao). The word 'inwards' in these statistics means to China, and the word 'outwards' from China, the statistics of goods landed and consumed in German territory not being included." From the regulations published at the time of the establishment of the Customs we understood that although no duties were to be levied on goods produced in or intended for consumption in German territory cognisance was to be taken of the total trade of the port, including that carried by steamers. So far as the shipping returns go, however, they have reference only to the junk trade, and are analogous to the returns of the Kowloon Customs. As yet the trade is small, the total number of junks entered at the various stations during the quarter being 456 only and the clearances 365. Turning to the revenue table, however, we find two columns headed respectively "foreign" and "native" the sum collected under the former being Tls. 8,015, and that under the latter Tls. 4,931, making a total of Tls. 9,946. The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* in an article on the returns says the figures cannot be called brilliant and are, in fact, when compared

with those for other ports, a little disappointing. "It would be a mistake, however," our contemporary continues, "to take the present low figures as indicative of the future trade of the colony. That the trade to-day is almost nil we have repeatedly said, also that there is little prospect of its improvement until new markets are opened by the penetration of the railway into the interior. It should also be borne in mind that goods would be rushed in as far as possible during the time immediately preceding the opening of the Customs. We are sure that the third quarter of 1900 will give quite different results from those of the quarter covered by the first returns of the Tsingtau Customs." Our contemporary's prediction will, we believe, receive ample fulfilment. Meantime, however, the trade is comparatively insignificant, the trade in piece goods of all descriptions amounting during the quarter under review to only 11,839 pieces, while that in wollen goods is represented by a couple of pairs of blankets. The metal trade amounts to 718 piculs. In foreign sundries 16,455 gallons of kerosine oil and 55,883 gross of matches are the principal items.

THE JUSTIFICATION OF THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

(Daily Press, 4th December.)

"Veritas," whose letter appears in another column, makes the assertion that it is for the "root of all evil" that men are slaughtering one another to-day in the Transvaal. We also publish to-day Lord SALISBURY's speech at the Guildhall Banquet, in the course of which this view is met and effectually disposed of. England, his Lordship showed, would derive no advantage from the possession of gold mines except in so far as her government confers the blessings of good administration upon those engaged in the industry. "All successful industry," he continued, "breeds commerce, and all interests and commerce flourish better under her good government than under any other regime in the world, but that is the limit of our interest. What we desire is equal rights for all men of all races, and security for our fellow subjects and our Empire." In those few words we have the whole case concisely stated. "The capitalist class with the lust of gold" would not carry the nation with them if they proposed to gratify their lust by despoiling other people of their rightful possessions. It is not on that ground that the war is being waged, but, to use Lord SALISBURY's words, to secure equal rights for all men of all races. All that is wanted is to replace an oppressive oligarchy governing in the interests of only one section of the population for a more liberal and more equitable administration which will govern in the interests of all alike.

The oligarchy of which "Veritas" is enamoured, and which is now being overthrown, not only governed oppressively and unjustly within the Transvaal, but was ambitious of extending its rule over the neighbouring British possessions. "Veritas" says this is not so, that the idea that the object was to drive us out of Africa is a very far-fetched one and probably no more true than that everybody would like to do the same to everybody else everywhere if they got the chance. As things were going the chance would have come to the Boers at some time, and can there be any doubt that they would have taken advantage of it? The Transvaal has been turned into a vast fortress and the whole

male population has been trained to arms. With what object? Was it simply for self-protection, as "Veritas" contends, or was it not rather in support of the policy of "South Africa for the Boers?" The moment Great Britain became engaged with any other great Power—and it is at any time possible she may become so engaged—the Boer army would have been able to descend upon Natal and Cape Colony and drive the British Garrisons out, for we could not have permanently maintained an army there of a hundred thousand men; and even that number would in a few years have become insufficient, seeing the rate at which the Boer Republics have been arming and preparing for war. As Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said in one of his speeches, the Empire has just escaped one of the gravest dangers with which it has ever been confronted. With the Cape in the hands of a hostile Power, and the possibility of the Canal route being blocked, Great Britain's hold upon her Indian Empire and upon the trade of the Far East would have been worth but a very short purchase. Self-preservation is the first law of nature, and upon that ground alone, even if there were no other and no nobler motive, the war would have been justified. But there is another motive, namely, that of substituting a free, just, and enlightened form of government for a selfish and unjust administration. The establishment of justice for all should command the support even of a humanitarian like "Veritas," but by some strange perversion his sympathy seems to be given to the oppressors rather than to the oppressed.

(Daily Press, 7th December.)

"Veritas" in his letter appearing in this issue says it requires a pretty strong faith in humanity to believe that were there no gold fields in the Transvaal millions of money would be spent and thousands of lives sacrificed merely for the sake of a wretched lot of Outlanders. Such faith would not be unwarranted, however. The Abyssinian War may be referred to as a case in point. Many millions of money were spent on that expedition, and if thousands of lives were not sacrificed it was merely the fortune of war; the risk of such sacrifice was taken. And what was the object? The rescue of a consul and a few missionaries. We might also point to the Sudan. Great Britain obtains no gold mines for her work in suppressing the slave trade and establishing good government in that wide region. Human nature and the British character are therefore not so sordid and selfish as "Veritas" imagines. He appeals to Mr. STEAD as his authority on the Transvaal question. Mr. STEAD is a believer in "spooks," is clever but unreliable, and we would recommend "Veritas" rather to use his own judgment than to follow such a leader. The broad issue, as a contemporary tersely puts it, is this—Shall a handful of Dutch farmers be allowed for all time to rule as absolute despots over the mixed population of a country with an area equal to that of Great Britain and Ireland? Surely "Veritas" will admit that the welfare of the population as a whole should be placed before the interests of a limited class. Moreover, the Dutch farmers under the regime of equal rights for all will be as well off as they were before except that they will no longer be able to exploit the Outlanders.

The German gunboat *Jaguar*, 10 guns, and with a complement of 127 men, arrived at Wosung on the 29th November from the Marianne Islands.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S WARNING TO FRANCE.

(Daily Press, 2nd December.)

According to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, the French Government has been warned with reference to the insults of the French Press towards the Queen. Annoying as the tone of the French Press towards Great Britain may be, and abominable as may be the insults aimed at the Queen, the policy of making them the subject of an official protest to the French Government is of somewhat doubtful expediency. In France as in England liberty of the Press exists, and though unfortunately it too frequently degenerates into licence, it would be difficult for the Government, even if it wished, to put the muzzle on. Any demand to that effect would, moreover, create a precedent which might be appealed to under circumstances that might be found inconvenient. If the British Press became excited over what was considered some enormity in foreign politics and used strong language regarding persons in high places supposed to be responsible for the wrong, what would the British Government do or say if it was asked to make the newspapers moderate their tone? To say that the British Press would probably be in the right whereas the French Press is, so far as personal insults to the Queen are concerned, clearly in the wrong, is merely begging the question, as the two parties would probably entertain divergent views on that point. All things considered it would be better, we think, to officially ignore the Anglophobic vapourings of the French Press. There can however, be no mistaking what the Press references indicate. In France the unreasoning and unreasonable hostility to Great Britain is approaching white heat and unless some change comes over the temper of the nation it can hardly fail to lead to acts that will cause a rupture of friendly relations. When great nations go to war it is not because of this or that trumpery dispute that may be put forward as the nominal cause, but because one or the other is determined to provoke a trial of strength. France appears to be approaching that point with regard to England. If she reaches it she will lose her colonies. In the meantime, the warning made public by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN will be more calculated to fan the flame than to quench it.

A MISMANAGED DEATH ENQUIRY.

(Daily Press, 9th December.)

The finding of the Police Magistrate regarding the death of Private JORDAN, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The finding reads as follows:—"That the body found in the 'harbour on the 18th November was that of Private 4,787 DAVID JORDAN, R.W.F. 'Death was due to syncope resulting on 'shock by a fracture of the skull. There is 'no evidence to show how this fracture was 'caused.' While the enquiry was in progress we suggested that it was a case for a jury. A one-man enquiry was deemed sufficient, however, and the enquiry was conducted by an official whose own conduct, had the assistance of a jury been enlisted, might have been deemed one of the branches of the case requiring investigation. A dead body is found, death having resulted from accident or violence; it is through carelessness wrongly identified as that of another soldier named JONES, and the burial takes place according to the rites of a church to which the deceased did not belong. Presumably authority for the

burial was given by the Police Magistrate, by whom the enquiry was afterwards held. Subsequently the body of JONES was found, and an enquiry was then held in both cases. But there was no elucidation of how JORDAN, whose death may have been due either to accident or murder, came to be buried without enquiry in the first instance. That in such a case burial should be allowed to take place without a public and searching enquiry constitutes a grave public scandal.

THE PACIFIC CABLE SCHEME.

(Daily Press 8th December.)

The introduction of a Bill in Congress to authorise the laying of a United States Government cable to Hawaii, the Philippines, China, and Japan, as mentioned in the telegram of our London correspondent, affords promise that the long talked of establishment of cable communication across the Pacific will shortly become an accomplished fact. The United States has resolved to keep the Philippines, and it is but natural that she should desire to have direct telegraphic communication with the Islands instead of being dependent upon the route via Europe. Meanwhile the project for a cable connecting Canada and Australia is approaching final settlement, and it is possible that the laying of the British and the American cables may be in progress at the same time. Which will be commenced first and which completed first are questions that afford scope for interesting speculation. Whatever the result of the race, if race there be, the increase of telegraphic facilities, with the prospect of a lowering of rates, will be heartily welcomed by the mercantile communities of the Far East.

SUPREME COURT.

4th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

ULLMANN AND CO. V. KHAN.

In this case, which was adjourned from last week, J. Ullmann and Co., watchmakers, etc., Queen's Road, sought to recover from R. Khan, who was formerly in their employ, \$904.50, loss sustained by them through defendant and money lent.

Mr. Grist (Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Brutton (Messrs. Monsey and Brutton) for defendant.

Mr. Grist said his Lordship would remember that this case came on on Thursday last and was adjourned at the request of his friend to enable him to get behind, if he could, the document which he admitted was signed by defendant. That was the present state of the case.

His Lordship—Yes, I think that was so.

Mr. Brutton said his Lordship would recollect that on Thursday his friend stated that this paper writing was an account stated, and that therefore he (Mr. Brutton) was not entitled to call any evidence or cross-examine the witness on the facts which led up to the signing of that paper writing. He submitted in the first instance that this paper writing was not an account stated at all.

His Lordship—I do not think it is, if you ask me.

Mr. Brutton—I have plenty of authorities to prove it is not.

Mr. Grist—What is it then? Is it a promissory note, or an agreement to pay, or an account stated?

His Lordship—A promissory note, that is clear.

Mr. Brutton quoted cases to show that the document in question was not an account stated. In such an account there must be a definite and precise sum mentioned. There was no definite and precise sum mentioned in this document.

Mr. Grist said his friend had admitted that \$91 was due. That was an admission in respect of no particular item, but an admission in respect of the whole claim.

Mr. Brutton said plaintiff's claim was for the sum of \$904.50, loss sustained by them through defendant, and money lent. That sum showed one item—\$904.50. They said they were indebted to plaintiffs in the sum of \$81.68, which had been paid into court. That was not an admission that they were liable for the whole sum. It was only an admission that they were liable for the amount paid in.

After some further argument, His Lordship held that the document in question was not such as to preclude Mr. Brutton from setting up the defence of want of consideration or illegality.

Mr. Bernheim, a partner in the firm of Ullmann and Co., then entered the box and was cross-examined by Mr. Brutton. He said certain goods, consisting of clocks, etc., were sent to Shanghai by one of their employees as personal luggage. Had the goods been sent up in the ordinary way duty would have had to be paid upon them. The goods were confiscated on their arrival, and the \$822 was the value of the goods.

His Lordship—The question seems to me to be whether the value of this consignment is to be debited to defendant or not.

A witness was called to prove the signing of the document by defendant, but his evidence not being satisfactory, Mr. Grist said that if his friend denied the signature he should ask for an adjournment to get more evidence.

Mr. Brutton said he did not propose to put defendant in the box to deny the signature. He did not propose to call any evidence.

His Lordship said he was going to call defendant to see whether he denied the signature or not.

Defendant was called and admitted the signature.

Mr. Grist said the special defence set up in this case was illegality and want of consideration. The document which he had put in was admitted by Khan as having been signed by him. If it was not an account stated it was an agreement to pay a certain sum of money—\$822.82. His friend in order to get over that agreement must prove that it was entered into without consideration; but there was absolutely no evidence forthcoming and he asked for judgment.

Mr. Brutton said that in this case a document was put in on which the other side practically asked for judgment. In order that there might be an acknowledgment or admission of a debt on which to sue there must be some antecedent debt or some existing debt between the parties for which defendant was liable at the time of signing the paper. He submitted that at the time the document was signed there was no existing debt. Mr. Brutton quoted cases on the point.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff.

5th December.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) and HIS HON.
A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A. SHELTON HOOPER APPELLANT V. L. A.
BRETT RESPONDENT—THE APPEAL
DISMISSED.

The Acting Chief Justice gave judgment as follows:—

This is an appeal from the decision of the Magistrate upon a point of law as to the meaning to be attached to the word "owner," in a bye-law made by the Sanitary Board on 13th August, 1896, under the provision of sub-section 4 of Section 13 of Ordinance No. 24 of 1887. The bye-law in question is as follows:—"Any house or part of a house which is occupied by members of more than one family shall, unless specially exempted by the Sanitary Board, be cleansed and limewashed throughout by the owner to the satisfaction of the said Board not less than twice in every year, namely during the months of," &c., &c. (according to the district in which the premises are situated.) "and notice of such intended cleansing and limewashing shall

be sent to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board three clear days before the work is commenced." Section 83 of the Ordinance (which is the Public Health Ordinance, 1887) enacts that any person contravening any provision of (*inter alia*), any Bye-Law made thereunder, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars or in default of payment, to imprisonment not exceeding three months. It is not disputed that the Bye-Law was contravened, and the Magistrate holding the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, to be the owner within the meaning of the Bye-Law inflicted a fine of \$10 in respect of each house, upon the appellant. It appeared that the premises in question were all of them occupied by more than one family and were held under a Crown Lease by the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, and that the appellant was Secretary of such Company. It also appeared that, by an agreement for lease dated the 20th December, 1898, the Company agreed to under-lease the said premises to one Chin Wa for five years from 1st January, 1899, at the rent therein mentioned, and it was agreed that such lease should contain a covenant on the part of the said Chin Wa to keep the said premises in good and substantial condition and repair, including all limewashing or other reparations required by the Government or the Sanitary Board, and that, until the execution of the lease, the said premises should be held by the said Chin Wa subject to the covenants and conditions to be contained in the said lease. The agreement also provided that the lease should contain a provision that if the Company or their assigns sold the premises they might determine the lease on or after 31st March, 1901, on giving Chin Wa three calendar months' notice. There was also to be a proviso for re-entry for non-payment of rent or breach of any of the covenants. This agreement for lease was duly registered at the Land Office in February, 1899, and Chin Wa was in possession under such agreement and received and collected the rents from the occupiers. The cleansing and limewashing not having been done, although notice was given to the appellant on 18th September last, the question arises as to the person responsible for this omission. Is the Company "the owner" within the meaning of the Bye-Law or is the sub-lessee, Chin Wa, the person to be deemed the owner? It was contended before the Magistrate on behalf of the appellant that the word "owner," as defined by section 3 (13) of the Public Health Ordinance, means owner in possession, that is the person entitled to receipt of the rents immediately from the occupiers, and did not mean a person only entitled to the reversion expectant upon the determination of a lease for years, and the case of *Cook v. Montague*, Law Reports, 7 Queen's Bench, p. 418, was cited in support of that contention. The Magistrate, however, decided that the word "Owner" as defined by the Ordinance did not bear such a restricted meaning and that the Company was "Owner" of the premises in question within the meaning of the statutory definition. The case submitted to the Court proceeds to set out the question of law as follows:—"The question of law upon which this case is stated for the opinion of the Court is therefore:—Whether, under the above state of facts, the term owner as used in the said Bye Law and defined by the said Ordinance is limited, as contended for by the appellants, to the person who immediately receives the rent from the actual occupier of the premises or whether the Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, can be considered the owners as either being the 'house owners' or else as being in receipt of the rent of the premises."

The definition of owner given by the Ordinance is as follows:—

"Owner.—Any house-owner, or the person for the time being receiving the rent of the premises solely or as joint tenant or tenant in common with others, or receiving the rent of any premises whether on his own behalf or that of any other person, or, where the owner cannot be found or ascertained, the occupier; and for the purposes of this Ordinance every mortgagee in possession shall be deemed an owner;"

and it is provided by the Ordinance such is to be the meaning of the word "owner" in any Bye Law made under the Ordinance. Now

several cases were cited on both sides, but the difficulty is that the definition of "owner" in the Acts of Parliament under which those cases were decided is not precisely the same as the definition in our Public Health Ordinance in Hongkong, and therefore, one, in reality, derives very little assistance from such cases.

It seems to me that the first three words, viz., "Any house-owner," are fatal to the contention of the Company. Her Majesty grants a lease for 999 years of this land to the Company, the houses are built and the Company becomes the owner of the houses, is the "house-owner."

The fact that the Company sub-lets these houses, on certain conditions, for a term of five years at a rent of \$450 a month does not make the Company cease to be the owner. The house-owner has sub-let to a tenant who while collecting rent from the occupier, himself also pays a rent to the owner, i.e., the Company. I am, therefore, of opinion that the Company is the house-owner and comes within the definition of "owner," and the question we are asked must be answered accordingly.

It is important to bear in mind that the case, only requested our opinion on that one specific point. There is nothing before us to show that the Appellant took or desired to take, before the Magistrate, the objection that even if the Company should be held liable as "owner" such decision would not justify fining the Secretary of the Company, but the Company itself should have been summoned and fined. I mention this, because when the case came before the Court, on the argument of the question of law submitted, the Appellant's Counsel began to raise this objection as if it had been a point on which our opinion was asked by the case.

In *Purkis v. Huxtable*, 28 Law Journal, Magistrate's Cases, p. 221, when a similar course was adopted, the Court said "This point cannot now be made, as it was not raised when the hearing took place before the Justices." In the case of the Overseers of St. James, Westminster v. Overseers of St. Mary, Battersea, 29 Law Journal Magistrate's Cases, p. 26, the same view was taken; Williams J., at p. 29, saying, "There was another question on which we were requested to give our opinion. It was not submitted to us by the Magistrates and therefore we have no power to comply with the request that has been made to us." In *Knight v. Halliwell*, Law Reports, 9 Queen's Bench, p. 412, a distinction seems to have been made by Cockburn C. J. and Blackburn, and Lush J. J., in cases where a fatal legal objection appeared on the case as stated, of a kind which could not have been amended or rectified, if taken before the Magistrate. In that case the proceedings were taken more than twelve months after the date mentioned in the notice, though the legislature had expressly limited the time for taking such proceedings to a period within twelve months. The Judges pointed out that under section 6 of the Statute 20 and 21 Victoria c. 43, the act under which the case was stated, they had power to take notice of this fatal point, although it was not one of the questions submitted to the court for its opinion. The wording of our Magistrate's Ordinance is different from section 6 of 20 and 21 Victoria, c. 43. But without deciding that no possible point of law could arise which the Court would notice if not specifically submitted by the case, I see no reason why, in this instance, the Court should go outside the ordinary rule. It is obviously inconvenient that when Counsel come before the Court to argue a specific point of law a totally different point should be suddenly submitted by one of the parties. If the Appellant when summoned as Secretary of the Company, had raised the objection that the Company and not the Secretary of the Company ought to have been summoned, as this was a case arising under the definition of "owner" and not under the definition of "householder," the matter could have been set right at once. But this was not done and the Magistrate, no doubt, assumed that as the Secretary appeared and his legal adviser took no point of the kind, the Secretary was content to assume the role of representative and *alter ego* of the Company. In any case the matter involved no moral turpitude and Mr. Shelton Hooper was only fined as representing the Company and because he appeared in such representative capacity.

In all the circumstances the appeal must be dismissed with costs.

Mr. Justice Wise—I have had an opportunity of perusing the judgement and I concur with it. I only just add that at the conclusion of the hearing of the argument I made some remarks that the Court might consider the advisability of expressing their opinion as to whether the right person had been convicted or not, but after considering the further circumstances of the case I am inclined to think we are not required to do that.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q. C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the appellant and the Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), instructed by Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, for the respondent.

7th November

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

RE B. KHAN.

Mr. Brutton appeared on behalf of the debtor who is a watchmaker employed at No. 6, Queens Road Central, who applied that a receiving order be made in respect of his estate. His employer (Mr. Girault) was willing to guarantee the payment of so much per month to the Official Receiver in respect of this bankruptcy. The debts amounted to a little over \$1,000, and the debtor's estate consisted simply of his salary from his employer. There was \$930 judgment and a tailor's bill. Execution had been issued against him in respect of the \$930.

The debtor and his employer having given evidence, a receiving order was made it being arranged that the debtor should pay \$40 a month.

THE CLIMAX OF THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION.

THE GOVERNMENT DESTROYED.

AGUINALDO A FUGITIVE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 1st December.

The war in the Philippines has come to the point where even the most conservative declare that organized resistance on a large scale is now impossible. The splendidly organized Insurgent Government is scattered to the four winds. More than half the principal leaders of Congress and the strongest men in the civil machine have come into the American lines or have been picked up by the troops in the numerous towns that have been occupied during the last month. As a rule they have not been taken prisoners, but rather ignored, and usually when the request has been made transportation has been given to Manila. Baptista, the last President of Congress, Dr. Leonsong, the chief surgeon of the army, the director of railways, Luna's brother with his family and mother, Major Ortiz, Senor Barretto, the Attorney-General, and an odd lot of Congressmen and military officials have, temporarily at least, renounced the Insurgent cause.

The operations of the last month have been so rapid and effective that Aguinaldo's army has been hounded from place to place by Lawton on the east, McArthur on the west, and Wheaton and Young on the north, until the provinces have become thoroughly terrorized.

THE FLIGHT AND ESCAPE.

For twelve long days and nights Aguinaldo and his small party were chased from pillar to post, fighting against heavy odds, against an overwhelmingly superior force both in numbers and equipment, and against the semi-hostile native population of Pangasinan; to say nothing of the notorious ladrones, the Guardia de Honor, who hung like vultures on his flanks waiting for an opportunity to rob or kill or inform on the fleeing General, in order to get a part of the treasure which was reported with him. At Asingan his little girl died from exposure and his wife was taken sick. A day later he consigned his three year old son to the care of a faithful nurse, and made a last dash for liberty.

He escaped through the very fingers of the Americans and is now anywhere from Abra in the north to Cavite in the south, or perhaps in Panay Island. Who knows?

The country is full of rumours. Here and there natives will swear that they saw Aguinaldo yesterday, that he rode on a great white horse, and went swiftly by, another that he was carried in a bamboo litter, and another that he was in the black gown of a priest and stopped to bless the people. Some say that Del Pilar has assumed the name of the dictator and is leading a force northward where Aguinaldo is not known, while the President has escaped to the south through the Zambales hills, crossed Manila Bay in a banca, and is now raising an army in Batangas and Cavite provinces.

Thus all indications point to the complete demoralization of the insurgent army. One branch is known to have gone north into the Trinidad and Benguet districts, another passed west of Dagupan and is now working its way south into the Merivales and Zambales hills; and a third part has fled to the east of the Malolos valley beyond San Isidro, but none of the forces are of formidable size. One thing seems almost certain, and that is, the impossibility of there ever being a well organized Government to oppose the Americans again. The fabric of government is shattered and the Insurgents will never be allowed to rest long enough to set the ponderous wheels of government in motion. General Otis has promised this and will carry it out as long as he remains in office in the islands. Congress meets in Washington on December 4th and it will be told that the Filipino Government is a thing of the past; it is also likely that it will be told that the insurrection is practically over, and this appears to be almost true at the present moment. However, Aguinaldo is free, all his Generals are still loyal to him, and he has troops to the number of seven to ten thousand scattered through the island. The morale of the force is for the present gone, but experience has taught us the remarkable recuperative powers of the little brown men, and though the rebellion seems for the moment crushed and dead it may revive where least expected.

The great Cagayan valley and Ilocos Provinces remain, besides the country south of Manila, and though the natives of these districts are said to be hostile to the Tagalos no one knows the exact state of affairs. Three thousand odd Spaniards are still in the hands of the Insurgents in spite of the great number that have gained their liberty through the rapid marches and decisive strokes of the Americans.

To-day, the American army of the north is for the most part resting. The worn out troops are beginning to feel the strain of the last month's work and small sicknesses of all kinds are claiming their victims. Many of the men are shoeless, their clothes are in rags and a rest is an absolute necessity. The cavalry is in a similar state; the wet grounds and numerous rivers have softened up the hoofs until the nails pulled out and the shoes were lost and the horses became footsore. For a short time opportunity must be allowed for a general recuperation.

How far the delay will benefit the Insurgents remains to be seen.

LOSS OF THE STEAMER HUPEH.

THE EUROPEANS SAVED.

FIFTY CHINESE DROWNED.

On enquiring at Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's office on Tuesday we were informed that a telegram had been received from Manila to the effect that the *Hupeh* which has been missing for some time, was lost, that all the Europeans aboard were saved and were coming to Hongkong in the *Yuenong*, and that 50 Chinese had been lost. No particulars as to where and how the vessel was lost are as yet forthcoming.

The *Hupeh* left Passaic, Java, on the 7th November, and should have reached Hongkong in about ten days.

Colonel General Wildman's delightful "Tales of the Malayan Coast" is now in its third Edition and bids fair to pay its author a handsome price for his work. The U.S. Secretary of the Navy has placed it in the libraries of all the American men-of-war.

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.

UNVEILING OF HER MAJESTY'S PORTRAIT.

The annual Ball promoted by the St. Andrew's Society of Hongkong, which took place in the City Hall on the 3rd November is generally admitted to have been one of the most enjoyable of recent years. Additional interest was imparted to it by the presence of H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia and the unveiling by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) of the magnificent portrait of Her Majesty the Queen presented to the colony by Sir Thomas Jackson, and which adorns the walls of St. George's Hall.

As usual, the whole of the City Hall had been requisitioned. Supper was served in the Theatre, the Library was turned into a card-room, and dancing took place in the two large and handsome halls. The decorations were pretty much as heretofore, but there was a decided improvement in the appearance of the rooms, the walls having been apparently recently cleaned. Heather, the thistle, and St. Andrew's Cross—appropriately enough entered largely in the decorations, a prominent feature of which was a huge St. Andrew's Cross (out-lined with electric lamps) on the first landing of the Grand Staircase. One was still further reminded of Bonnie Scotland by the kilts which floated about, rather more of the gentlemen present being attired in this picturesque garb than last year. The Army and Navy were well represented, and so were the different civil communities of Hongkong. Probably some 1,000 would be present.

Nine o'clock was the hour fixed for the opening of the ball, and shortly after that time the Governor and his party arrived. It included H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia, Miss Blake, H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, Mrs. Gascoigne, Hon. W. Meigh Goodman (Acting Chief Justice), Sir Thomas Jackson, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., and other prominent ladies and gentlemen. The party were welcomed as they entered the vestibule by Captain Anderson (the President) and other officials of St. Andrew's Society. Piper Hogg headed the procession to the ball-room. Captain Anderson immediately followed, and then came H.R.H. Prince Henry and Miss Blake, the Governor and Mrs. Gascoigne, and the rest of the party from Government House. On the ball room being reached the band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers gave a strain of the National Anthem.

It was at this point that the unveiling ceremony took place.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR said—Your Royal Highness, ladies and gentlemen, I have been asked by Sir Thomas Jackson to unveil the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen this evening, and before doing so to give you some short resumé of the way in which the portrait has come to be presented. At the Jubilee celebration the first idea of some gentlemen in Hongkong was that there should be a portrait of Her Majesty. A very large sum of money was ultimately collected, and it was decided that it should be devoted to the Nursing Institute and the Jubilee Road. But there were some gentlemen—and among them Mr. Atwell Coxon—who disapproved of the idea that the great Diamond Jubilee of the Queen should pass by in Hongkong without having a portrait of Her Majesty commemorating the auspicious occasion. Subscriptions were invited and a sum of money was subscribed, and Mr. Coxon, who was leaving the colony for home, was authorised to procure a portrait of Her Majesty and send it out. On his arrival at home the Queen was consulted as to the portrait to be painted, and Her Majesty elected to go down to posterity in a portrait painted at the time when she was in the full flower of Queenly youth and beauty; when the refulgent sun was over all and the shadows of her life were still sinking towards the west; when every happiness was hers; and before the great sorrow had laid its heavy hand upon her. The portrait was painted and Her Majesty inspected it and approved of its being sent out. When the time arrived it was found that a large number of the subscribers had left the colony. No subscriptions had actually been collected, and Sir Thomas Jackson determined to acquire the portrait and present it to that colony with which he has been connected so many years (Applause) Therefore, at his request I have now to unveil the portrait

of Her Majesty under most appropriate circumstances—on the anniversary of the Saint of that Scotland which Her Majesty loves so well and in the presence of Her Royal Grandson, Prince Henry of Prussia, whom we all know so well and love so well, not alone for himself but as the grandson of our beloved Queen. (Applause) I will, therefore, unveil this portrait of the Queen with the prayer that Her Majesty may live for many more years to guide the destinies of this great nation with her ripe experience and the great wisdom which she has always exhibited to the benefit of her loyal, grateful, and loving subjects. (Applause.)

On the call by His Excellency hearty cheers were given for Her Majesty, and one for Sir Thomas Jackson, and dancing was then commenced. The President's set was made up as follows:—Captain Anderson and Mrs. Gascoigne, H.E. the Governor and Miss Anderson, H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia and Miss Blake, Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald and Mrs. D. R. Crawford, H.E. Major-General Gascoigne and Mrs. Lawson, His Hon. W. M. Goodman and Mrs. Powell, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart and Mrs. Goodman, Mr. D. Gillies and Mrs. Ormsby. Owing to indisposition, Lady Blake was unable to be present. The following was the dance programme:—

- 1—Lancers Guidochan Righ
- 2—Waltz Ruacan Ragan
- 3—Eightsome Reel Am Braman air reang nan Talleen
- 4—Caledonians An Connan Gaelach
- 5—Waltz Uilleam's Morag
- 6—Waltz Bon Cruachan
- 7—Strathspey & Reel Faille Sheamus More
- 8—Caledonians Glen Albyn
- 9—Waltz Shratash Bhan Ohlann Aridh
- 10—Polka Fraoch Eilean
- 11—Waltz Tha mi gu Tinn
- 12—Baru Dance Bodaich nam brigiean
- 13—Eightsome Reel Port more MoEwan
- 14—Caledonians Ardmore
- 15—Waltz Fear a Chinn Mhoir
- 16—Waltz Buachill nan Caorach
- 17—Strathspey & Reel Cabar Fèidh
- 18—Caledonians Glen Albyn
- 19—Polka Ceid mille fallthe
- 20—Highland Schottische Tulach Ard
- 21—Lancers Guidochan Righ
- 22—Waltz & Galop Auld Lang Syne

Supper was served between 11.30 and 1.30. A capital repast was served by Messrs. Madar and Farmer. The haggis was supplied by Miss Anderson, and Mrs. A. G. Aitken provided the shortbread, the cakes bearing the following inscriptions:—"The Queen," "St. Andrew," "Kilted Lads," "Heather Hills," "Bonnie Scotland," "Scotland Yet," "Auld Frerna," "Son o' Scotland," and "Land o' Cakes." Those seated at the President's table included the ladies and gentlemen in the President's set of Lancers and Commodore Powell and Madame O'Gorman, Sir Thomas Jackson and Miss Blake, Hon. T. H. Whitehead and Mrs. C. W. Dickson. The haggis was carried to the President's table by Mr. A. Stewart, and the whisky by Messrs D. Wood and W. D. Graham, headed by Piper Hogg.

On the proposition of the President the toast "The memory of St. Andrew" was drunk in solemn silence.

The President intimated that telegrams had been despatched to the kindred societies in Yokohama, Kobe, Shanghai, and Singapore in the following terms:—"Chief Anderson and Hongkong Scots greet Brither Scots—Wood, Secretary." Among the replies were the following:

- From Kobe.—"Brither Scots send greetings."
From Shanghai.—"President Inglis and Brither Scots are speering for ye."
From Yokohama.—"President Mitchell, Brither Scots send greetings."

The preparations for the ball entail a considerable amount of work on the gentleman occupying the position of honorary Secretary, but Mr. David Wood proved himself fully equal to the task before him. He was ably assisted by the President and the different committees, which were made up as follows:—

Invitation Committee—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Messrs. J. C. Peter, W. Chatham, D. Gillies, E. J. Main, A. Coutts, G. Stewart, Dr. Rennie, Dr. Lawson, and the Hon. Secretary (Convener).

Supper and Wine.—Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. H. F. Carmichael, G. L. Duncan, A. C. More, T. H. Reid, A. Rodger, J. Rodger, J. F. Boulton, W. D. Braidwood, T. Skinner, A. G. Gordon, A. F. Williamson, A. Ellis, the Hon. Secretary, and W. D. Graham (Convener).

Decorations.—Mr. W. C. Jack, Lieut. A. C. J. Campbell, Messrs. R. Mitchell, W. Armstrong, Allan Stewart, J. W. Cumming, J. W. Kinghorn, J. Kirkwood, Archibald Reid, the Hon. Secretary, and Mr. D. Macdonald (Convener).

Dancing and Music.—Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. W. Nicholson, A. Sinclair, G. W. F. Playfair, O. D. Thomson, J. A. Mackay, the Hon. Secretary, and G. Murray Bain (Convener).

Card Room.—Messrs. T. F. Hough, D. E. Brown, Hon. A. M. Thomson, the Hon. Secretary, and G. Murray Bain (Convener).

Ladies' Room.—Messrs. D. R. Crawford and A. Findlay Smith (Convener).

The following gentlemen acted as stewards:—Messrs. A. G. Aitken, J. Andrew, W. Armstrong, G. Murray Bain, J. F. Boulton, E. Brown, Lieut. A. C. J. Campbell, H. F. Carmichael, W. Chatham, T. P. Coghane, A. Coutts, D. R. Crawford, J. W. Cumming, C. W. Dickson, Peter Dow, G. L. Duncan, A. Ellis, David Gillies, A. G. Gordon, W. Douglas Graham, F. Henderson, R. H. Hill, T. F. Hough, W. C. Jack, R. F. Johnston, Hon. J. J. Keswick, J. W. Kinghorn, J. Kirkwood, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Dr. Lowson, James McKie, J. A. Mackay, A. McConachie, Donald Macdonald, S. J. Main, F. Maitland, R. Mitchell, A. C. More, W. Nicholson, J. C. Peter, G. W. F. Playfair, Archibald Reid, T. H. Reid, Dr. Rennie, H. W. Robertson, A. Rodger, John A. Ross, C. Sherrington, R. Shewan, A. Sinclair, T. Skinner, Colin McD. Smart, A. Findlay Smith, J. Grant Smith, G. Stewart, Alan Stewart, Capt. Taylor, W. Taylor, O. D. Thomson, Hon. A. M. Thomson, John Thurburn, Capt. The Hon. H. W. F. Trefnais, J. M. Watson, W. M. Watson, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, A. F. Williamson, David Wood.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon. The President (Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided, and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary).

THE SANITARY IMPROVEMENT OF THE COLONY.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I beg to move the resolution which stands in my name and which reads as follows.—“That a Sub-Committee of the Board be appointed consisting of the Medical Officer of Health, Mr. Edward Osborne, and one other member to be nominated by the President, to consider and submit recommendations for the formation by Government of a Trust to be endowed with a percentage of the assessed taxes, and of the premises on land sales, and with suitable waste lands, or otherwise, and to be charged with the duty, and invested with the power, of carrying out sanitary improvements in the city of Victoria, especially in the matter of the abolition of insanitary areas and overcrowding.” The article in the *Engineer* which accompanied this resolution was brought to my notice about 15 months ago by Mr. R. K. Leigh, architect, of this colony, and although I thought the article afforded food for very serious reflection by this Board I did not bring it before the Board because I was afraid that perhaps it might act as a trial thrown across the track of the progress of the Insanitary Properties Bill. Now that the Bill, thanks to His Excellency the Governor, who has taken so great an interest in the sanitary improvement of the town, has passed into law, I think that the time has come when we should endeavour to place before the Government some recommendations for the further sanitary improvement of this city. The Insanitary Properties Bill will effect a great deal, but it requires no sanitarian to see that it cannot and will not effect that radical change for the better which is absolutely essential in a great many quarters of the city

before this most important port and centre of trade can rid itself of this dread scourge, plague, and from the danger of becoming periodically infected with other epidemic diseases. Hongkong is in its infancy. It has a very large future before it, and it behoves us men of the present day to do all we possibly can to make this port a healthy one. Otherwise its development cannot be so large nor its future so brilliant as it ought to be. The subject which is dealt with in the paper which was attached to this resolution is of course a most difficult one, and my resolution simply aims at obtaining consideration from men who have knowledge of sanitary matters and large business capacity, to see if some feasible scheme could not be laid before the Government. The Trust which is suggested in this resolution would be formed, I should imagine, not necessarily by members of the Sanitary Board only, but would be, or ought to be, a public body composed of the leading men of the city—inter-mixed with officials—who have the necessary technical knowledge and capacity, and ought to be such a body as would command the fullest confidence not only of the Government but of the public. The advantage that such a body would have over a purely governmental body would be that its funds would, I think, be augmented by subscriptions and donations, perhaps legacies from wealthy men who have the interests of this colony at heart. The Government is always regarded by the public as a sort of privileged body with a bottomless purse the strings of which it holds very tightly and which is filled with money which it is always loth, or somewhat loth, to use for the public benefit. I do not know why this idea has taken hold of the public mind, but such seems to me to be always the case. A public body such as I should like to see instituted would certainly be free from the disadvantages under which Government sometimes labours. I think it certainly would be a more popular institution, and therefore in such a matter as sanitary improvement more likely to command public sympathy and support.

Mr. OSBORNE—For the reason that I consider the scheme proposed by the Vice-President is the only practical method of satisfactorily dealing with the many difficult problems connected with insanitary properties in this colony, I shall be pleased to give my services on the Committee, but at the same time I cannot refrain from saying that in view of the procrastination, apathy, and indifference which characterised the progress of the “Insanitary Properties Ordinance” from its inception in 1895 to its becoming law four years afterwards, I do not think the extended range of reform covered by the proposal before us will meet with much sympathy or encouragement from the ruling powers. However, it is the duty of the Sanitary Board to press forward such measures of reform as will bring light, fresh air, and health into the homes of the many thousands of our fellow creatures who now struggle for life in loathsome places where darkness, dirt, foul air, and disease preclude all possibility of a healthy existence, and I think that if we steadily persevere in our crusade against these evils we may hope in course of time, it may be years, to effect some real improvement, even though we fail to attain the full measure of success which the Vice-President's scheme would lead to. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The PRESIDENT—In putting this motion before the Board I would mention that the Government have been requested to furnish the Board with the Act which contains full provisions for regulating this matter of Trusts. There is one other member of the Committee to be nominated by the President, and I think we cannot do better than nominate the Vice-President, who proposed this motion.

The motion was carried.

RATS AS PROPAGATORS OF PLAGUE.

Papers were submitted on the proposed destruction of rats, as being propagators of bubonic plague.

The President minuted:—“The present appears to be a convenient time for killing off as many rats as possible. Accordingly purchase in the first instance 600 traps (they can be obtained at the gaol for 20 cents each), and request the M. O. H. to instruct each inspector to distribute 50 in his district. The people will have to be shown how to set them. Undoubtedly

rats are one means whereby plague is disseminated and it is much wiser to attempt to kill them off in times like the present, when the disease is not prevalent. Before doing this ask the M. O. H. for his opinion.”

Dr. Clark minuted:—“I am still of the opinion that any attempt to materially reduce the number of rats in such a city as this will be futile. The attempt has already been made in India and found to be impracticable. It can do no harm to set a few rat traps, but that is the most that can be said in favour of the scheme. We caught about a thousand rats this summer with traps and asked the Chinese to assist. 200 posters were stuck up and 5,000 leaflets were distributed, but they did not appear to respond at all to the appeal. It will be necessary to engage coolies (48 a month) to look after these traps—one man for every two districts in the Central Division and one man each for Districts 1 and 19—as otherwise the tenants will not bother to set and bait them. Raw meat is the only bait that appears to be any use. The expenditure on the coolies must I think be sanctioned by the Government.”

The President minuted:—“Forward to the Honourable Colonial Secretary for necessary authority to engage the coolies say for three months. The two districts at Kowloon should also be supplied. The traps can, I presume, be paid for out of the plague vote.”

Accordingly the Secretary wrote the Colonial Secretary on the 17th November:—

“I have the honour by direction of the President of the Sanitary Board to enclose certain minutes on the question of the propagation of plague by rats and the desirability of killing off as many of these vermin as possible while plague is not prevalent. I am also to apply for authority to purchase 600 traps and to engage eight coolies at \$8 a month each for at least three months to attend to the baiting of the traps and other incidental duties. This amount and also the cost of baiting the traps may be defrayed from the plague vote.”

Mr. OSBORNE—Amongst the papers on this subject there are some very interesting remarks made by Dr. Manson in his inaugural address to the London School of Tropical Medicine on the relationship between rats and plague. Coming as they do from so eminent an authority as Dr. Manson, and considering that the theory which he propounds, viz., that rats convey infection, is also held by local medical authorities, I think the Sanitary Board should take steps to rid the colony as far as possible of this dangerous vermin—not in a spasmodic half-hearted spirit, but in a thoroughly systematic manner, so that, even though we may not, as Dr. Manson puts it, “contemplate the approach of plague with equanimity,” we shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing that we have not ignored the warning given us. Dr. Manson lays great stress upon the importance of killing the rats before the epidemic is upon us. He says, “I would emphatically point out, to be effective these measures must be employed in anticipation. To prevent epidemic plague you must kill the local rats before they are attacked.” The present, sir, is therefore the time to act, not six months hence, when the mischief has recommenced, and what I propose is that we should at once organise a rat hunt, distribute traps broadcast through the city free of charge, and offer a reward for every rat dead or alive. This plan I believe to be the best, because it is hopeless to expect that we can get the rats by any other means than through the occupiers of houses, and the only way in my opinion by which this can be effected is to make it worth the occupiers' while to go to the trouble of catching them. I know that difficulties will occur, and we shall be told rats will be bred or imported for the sake of the reward, but these difficulties must be met as they arise, and I have no doubt that with the assistance of the Captain Superintendent of Police they will melt away like most difficulties do when brought face to face with intelligent determination. We are of course powerless to act of ourselves, having no funds at our disposal, and all we can do is to suggest that Government should give effect to our recommendation. I therefore propose:—“That Government be asked to authorize the Sanitary Board to purchase and distribute rat traps free of charge to all applicants and to offer a reward of two cents (with power to increase the price

if necessary) for every rat dead or alive delivered to the Sanitary Board until further notice.

The Vice-President seconded.

The PRESIDENT observed that 600 traps had already been ordered, and it was proposed to give 50 traps to each inspector, and that each inspector should report once a week as to the number of rats killed.

Dr. CLARK pointed out that two different schemes were suggested, but he thought that proposed by Mr. Osborne was the better one of the two.

The motion was carried.

THE CREMATION OF HINDOOS.

The Secretary having informed the Government that the Board considered the manner and place of cremating bodies was the cause of nuisance and wished the Government to ask the Director of Public Works to select some unobjectionable spot on which these cremations may be conducted.

The Director of Public Works minuted:—"The proper place for cremation is I think the Hindoo cemetery, where there is ample room. The permission granted to use Crown land between the Mahomedan cemetery and Morrison Hill should be withdrawn."

Dr. Clark minuted:—"The Hindoo cemetery cannot be used for cremation for two reasons—one, a difference of caste between those Hindoos who are cremated and those who are buried; and, two, because it would cause a grave nuisance to the occupants of the Happy Retreat, dwelling in the immediate neighbourhood."

The matter was postponed for further enquiries.

RINDERPEST.

Mr. Ladds (C.V.S.) reported on the 28th November that the premises of the Dairy Farm Company at Pokfulam, which were declared to be infected with rinderpest on September 27th, might be declared free from the disease on December 1st.

Mr. Ladds also reported on the 29th November that six head of very emaciated cattle which were suffering from rinderpest had been destroyed that morning at the Hunghom Cattle Depot with the consent of the President. These animals having been slaughtered under the provisions of sub-section 5 of section 3 of Ordinance 7 of 1887 no compensation could be claimed.

The SECRETARY said that he had since received another report from Mr. Ladds to the effect that rinderpest had broken out in shed 6, Sassoon's Villa, belonging to the Dairy Farm Company. There were 34 animals in the shed and six were infected. He recommended that the shed be declared an infected area, and that two watchmen be appointed. This outbreak would not affect the milk supply, as none of the animals in shed 6 were giving milk at present.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, the recommendation was adopted.

It was stated that shed 6 was about a mile and a half from the other place which had been infected.

QUARANTINING DOGS.

The construction of a home for quarantined dogs at Hunghom was mentioned, and on the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. OSBORNE, it was decided to ask the Government to sanction the building of suitable kennels for quarantined dogs at Hunghom Cattle Depot, sufficient to accommodate a dozen dogs and capable of considerable extension if necessary.

THE CENTRAL MARKET.

Mr. C. V. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) reported on the 28th ult. that at the present time in the Central Market there are 11 stalls in the centre of the pork section which have been vacant for the last two or three years, and in order to utilise this space and so get some return from it in the way of rent he recommended that the Government be asked to fit up the ten pork stalls (Nos. 179 to 188) as vegetable stalls (which would let readily), the Registrar-General in the meantime being asked to cancel the leases of these ten pork stalls as soon as possible and to find accommodation for the present holders amongst those stalls which have been vacant during this long period.

It was decided to act upon the recommendation.

LIMEWASHING.

Mr. OSBORNE said they were in the middle of December and out of a total of 3,600 tenements only 783 had been cleansed. The other day a statement was made in the *Hongkong Telegraph* that no notice was sent to certain owners of tenements reminding them to have their premises limewashed. That statement was quite correct. Advertisements were inserted in the papers with regard to the western and central districts, but not the eastern district, where these particular premises were situated. It was not absolutely necessary, but he thought it was desirable people should be reminded, and therefore he proposed that advertisements should be inserted in the English and Chinese newspapers warning the owners of property in the western division that their premises had to be limewashed and cleansed before the 31st December.

Dr. CLARK seconded and the motion was carried.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

The mortality returns from Macao for the week ended 12th November showed 49 deaths.

The mortality statistics for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended 25 November showed a death rate of 17, against 23 for the previous week and 16 for the corresponding week last year.

BERI-BERI IN HONGKONG.

On the 20th November Dr. Clark reported:—

"I have the honour to submit the following deaths of Chinese from beri-beri during the present year:

"January 13, February 10, March 11, April 11, May 11, June 15, July 15, August 18, September 16, October 24, November (to the 14th) 20; total 164.

"There is an evident increase in the number of deaths during October and November, but it will be seen from Appendix A that the increase is general throughout the city and not confined to one quarter or health district.

"Appendix B shows all the deaths in each district since July 1st, and also the fact that No. 9 district has suffered most severely. This is the poorest and also the filthiest (from a domestic standpoint) district of the city, and that it is so severe is only in accord with the accepted teaching on the subject.

"It will be seen that deaths have occurred in new houses as well as in old ones and in houses fronting wide streets as well as narrow lanes. Several deaths have occurred among the workmen living in mat-sheds put up for their accommodation while employed in building operations. In no case has a second death from this disease occurred in the same house, and this agrees with the results given in my annual report for 1897.

"The average number of deaths from beri-beri during the past four years has been 144, so that we have already exceeded this average for the current year."

The PRESIDENT—It appears from this report that the disease is not epidemic, and is prevalent in the most overcrowded part of the city.

This was all the business.

DISTURBANCES IN MIRS BAY.

"DUTY TO THE CHINESE EMPEROR."

At the Magistracy on Monday morning, before Mr. Gompertz, Police Magistrate, a Chinaman from Fo-yeung, a village close to Mirs Bay, was charged with robbery.

Captain Superintendent May said that this case arose out of some trouble at Sha U Chung, Mirs Bay. The Local Council claimed the right of collecting toll from passengers landing and embarking there and had been in the habit of doing so for the last 30 years. The villagers of Fo-yeung wanted to claim the same privilege and there was a standing dispute between the two villages in consequence. He had taken a great deal of trouble to settle matters, and succeeded in doing so once, but the trouble had started again. Recently the villagers of Fo-yeung had claimed the sole privilege of landing passengers from the launches and embarking them, so that in addition to the two cents per passenger paid to the Sha U Chung Local Council the villagers of Fo-yeung tried to extort a poll of two cents per passenger ferried over the stretch of water between the launch

and the shore. He had warned them that they were committing robbery, but the trouble still continued, and in this case he had thought it his duty to prosecute this man for robbery.

His Worship—He says he was collecting toll. The Captain-Superintendent—That is what he will say. He is one of the villagers of Fo-yeung, and they have claimed the right to the shore and what they call the wharf up there. It is a strip of shore upon which the high road debouches from the Sha U Chung district and a considerable tract of country from which a large amount of produce is brought to Hongkong. The Sha U Chung Local Council also claim this shore, and these people, finding they could not maintain their claim to the shore, tried to establish a claim to the sole right of landing passengers.

His Worship—Is he a Chinese subject?

The Captain-Superintendent—Yes, but the offence was committed on a boat in British waters.

His Worship expressed doubt as to whether he could deal with the case.

The Captain-Superintendent said he should have charged defendant with disorderly conduct, but the punishment was so slight. He was prepared to prove that the man actually extorted money with threats. Of course his intention was not robbery; he was prepared to admit that.

His Worship—He claims to have the right to collect this money?

The Captain-Superintendent—It has been explained to these people several times during the past few months, not only by myself but by the police whom I have sent there, that they must not interfere with people on the water—that the water is British and the shore is British up to high water. It is a difficult matter to deal with. When the police are there everything goes on quietly, but the moment the police are withdrawn these people take the law into their own hands and interfere with passengers.

A boatman at Sha U Chung, who took out his license at Shauiwan, said that on the 2nd November he took a boat load of 28 passengers from the launch *Kam Shing* and landed them. He charged them two cents each. Then five men, of whom defendant was one, seized his boat and said that if he did not give them the money they would drag him into the water. Defendant got into his boat and threatened him. He gave the money up to them. Defendant had interfered with him in the same way before. He had complained to the police at Hongkong three times.

Witness's foki corroborated.

Sergeant O'Sullivan gave evidence as to the arrest of defendant.

Defendant said he was ordered by his master to collect the money. The money was for the wharf duty to the Chinese Emperor. The wharf belonged to the Fo-yeung village. Every man who used the wharf had to pay 20 cash as duty to the Chinese Emperor.

His Worship adjourned the case.

The Captain-Superintendent—Of course I do not press the charge of robbery very strongly, but we must have our waters respected. I have done all I could in the way of warning them of what the consequences would be of their going on in this way.

With regard to the Chinaman from Mirs Bay who had been arrested on a charge of robbery, Mr. Gompertz (Acting Police Magistrate) said at the Magistracy on Tuesday that he could not treat the case as one of robbery, but that he considered a charge of assault could be substantiated. The case will accordingly come before him again on Friday.

Defendant was again brought up on Friday and fined \$10 for disorderly conduct.

We are advised by the Acting Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, that he is in receipt of a telegram from the mines giving the result of the clean-up for November as follows:—The mill ran 28 days, crushing 2,450 tons, yielding 102 ounces of smelted gold. Concentrates produced, 21 tons.

For the homeward passenger season of 1900 the P. and O. Company are putting on two direct steamers for Marseilles, Plymouth, and London, thus avoiding the usual transshipment at Colombo. The direct steamers are the *Parimatta*, leaving on the 1st March, and the *Massilia*, leaving on the 1st April.

THE PIRACY NEAR FA TAU CHAU.**PROCEEDINGS AT THE MAGISTRACY.**

At the Magistracy on Thursday, before Mr. Gompertz (Acting Police Magistrate), Chan Sam, Tai Tok, Cheung Chenng, and Tai King, all of Hoi Fung, were charged with piracy near Fa Tau Chau it being alleged that prisoners were the men who attacked a junk and stole therefrom money and property to the value of \$47 and shot one of the occupants of the junk in the thigh.

Mr. Bowley (Messrs Dennys and Bowley, Crown Solicitors) appeared for the prosecution.

Chan Tung said he was a native of Pinghoi in the Kwai Sing district, on the coast between Hongkong and Swatow. He was steersman of the Kin Li junk, owned by Lam Kin Tsoi, who was also the master. The junk had two masts and her capacity was over 100 piculs. Since he joined her the junk had been engaged first in carrying salt and then she carried turnips from Pinghoi to Hongkong. The voyage from Hongkong to Pinghoi occupied one day when there was a favourable wind. He remembered Saturday, November 25th. They sailed out of Hungghom early in the morning for Pinghoi. There was no breeze that morning and they had to row. They went through Lyeemoon Pass, where they got sand for ballast. There were five men on board the boat including himself. After passing through the Lyeemoon A Kwan was steering and witness was rowing together with the other three fokis. They rowed past the south point of Fa Tau Chau, where the Customs House used to be, and soon afterwards met a small boat at about 9 a.m. containing five men, who rowed up to them and called out to them to stop rowing the men in the boat then came alongside and told those on the junk to go down into the hold. Just as they were about to go down the hold some of the men in the boat fired. Witness was hit and became senseless. He was shot in the right thigh and had been to Hospital since. The bullet was extracted from his leg on Wednesday by the doctor, witness adding "The doctors are very clever." When he recovered consciousness he found himself at Shankwan. That was about 11 a.m. He could not identify prisoners. He identified some of the property produced as his. They did not fight with the men in the boat because they had no arms on board.

Further evidence was taken and the prisoners were remanded.

SERIOUS AFFRAY ON THE MAINLAND.**AN EXCISE OFFICER KILLED.**

On Tuesday evening Special Constable Evans, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, proceeded with three excise officers in a boat from Kowloon City Police Station to the village of Ngau Tau Kok, which is about half-way between Kowloon City and Lyeemoon, for the purpose of executing a search warrant for prepared opium. A house was searched and some opium found, and one man was arrested and taken charge of by Evans. On their getting outside the house a crowd of about 100 persons gathered together and commenced to stone the party, also attacking them with bamboos. The party got separated and Evans, after being hit with a stone, fired a shot in the air from his revolver. His revolver was then knocked out of his hand by a blow from a bamboo and the prisoner was rescued. Evans recovered his revolver, and being closely pressed fired on the crowd and retreated to the water's edge with the object of gaining the boat in which the party had crossed over from Kowloon City. The crowd drove Evans into the water, and the boatman, who had also been stoned, having disappeared with the boat, Evans reloaded his revolver and fired at the crowd and gained the beach again. Having exhausted his 12 rounds of ammunition he escaped with one of the excise officers to Kowloon City. A second excise officer found refuge in a house in the village.

On the matter being reported at Kowloon City Police Station a party of police under Sergeant Wright proceeded to Ngau Tau Kok. At the water's edge and in the water they found

the dead body of the third excise officer. The second excise officer, who had received several wounds, was found in the village. Several arrests were made, including two men who were found wounded in the legs by Evans's shots. They are now in Hospital.

Subsequently Captain Superintendent May and Chief Detective Inspector Hanson proceeded to Ngau Tau Kok for the purpose of investigating the affair.

One of the men admitted to the Hospital has since died.

THE MISSING FUSILIERS.**THE VERDICTS.**

On Monday Mr. Gompertz returned his verdicts as the result of his enquiries into the circumstances attending the death of Privates Jordan and Jones, of the R.W.F., his finding being as follows.—

"(1) That the body found in the harbour on the 18th November was that of Private 4,787 David Jordan, R.W.F. Death was due to syncope resulting on shock by a fracture of the base of the skull. There is no evidence to show how this fracture was caused."

"(2) The body found in the harbour on the 21st November was that was Private 4,888 Haring Jones, R.W.F. Death was probably due to drowning, but the cause of death cannot be determined by the medical evidence, owing to the body when recovered being far advanced in decomposition."

THE KWANGTUNG BRIGADES AND THE VICEROY.**THE ROBBERS DEMAND BLACKMAIL OF \$300,000.**

It is reported from reliable sources, says the *Chung Ngai San Po*, that some notorious robbers have sent a letter to the Viceroy Tan Chung-lin demanding \$300,000 as blackmail, the money to be paid within this year at Shinghing, where the robbers will be present to receive it. If their request is not complied with, the robbers threaten that they will use some way or other to take away His Excellency's head. The old Viceroy, having been terribly frightened, has ordered over a thousand Hunan soldiers to be stationed round his yamen for his protection. It is said that the robbers simply make a joke of the old Viceroy, for they know him to be perfectly useless.

A CHINESE ACCOUNT OF AFFAIRS AT KWANGCHAUWAN.

The *Chung Ngai San Po* publishes the following as the report current at Canton of the recent occurrences at Kwangchauwan:—

On the 15th November a small number of French marines landed and marched to the interior. When they reached a village named Kongcha, the natives, all being well armed, sprang forward and fired on them. The French were completely surrounded. Two French officers were killed and several marines were wounded. A French marine got through the surrounding force and ran back to get assistance, and about a hundred French soldiers were sent to the scene. When the natives saw the approach of this additional force they all made good their escape. The French then returned to the harbour and boarded the gunboat *Kwong Yuk*, where they seized Chau Taotai, Colonel Chan Leang-kit, captain Lu Yut-lau, and a number of sailors, together with all the weapons and ammunition found on board. The said Chinese officers were detained on a French gunboat.

On the 16th November about a thousand French soldiers made an attack on a market town named Macha, where the natives had made every preparation for their defence. The French, seeing that the position was not favourable to them, left this place and turned their attack upon the villages Pakhum and Chakhum, where the natives again fought very bravely and successfully drove the French away. On their way back the French set fire to a number of houses in a village named Chanchuen, and a large number of women and children were burnt to death. While they were in the act of setting fire to the houses the villagers fired on them. Of the French about twenty were killed

and a hundred wounded. On the native side the loss was very heavy. The French carried back all the wounded to be treated in the hospital in Haiphong.

On the 17th November the French released Captain Lu Yut-lau and his five attendants, but Chau Taotai and Colonel Chan Leang-kit and the other soldiers were still kept in custody.

Chau Taotai was sometimes compelled to wear on board the French gunboat a cangue of tin plates on his shoulders. The French decline to release him till he has surrendered the Magistrate of Suikai, surnamed Li, who is alleged by the French to have given assistance to the natives to fight against the French.

It is reported that the question of the delimitation of the boundaries is progressing favourably, General Su being willing to comply with all the French demands.

THE SHANGHAI COTTON INDUSTRY.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their piece goods trade report dated Shanghai, 25th November, say:

Referring to the letter written by a *Times of India* correspondent published in our last report, just to illustrate the spirit in which Indian Spinners regard the local enterprises here, we would point out to those gentlemen the utter unreasonableness of their expectation that the Mills here should think of falling in with their views and curtailing the output, so long as the raw staple is obtainable. The vindictiveness displayed by the Indian Mills in swamping the China markets with Yarn at prices that the majority lose money on judging by the poor returns they make to their shareholders—is greatly to be deprecated, the principle of "live and let live," seemingly being unknown to them. From a share list published at the end of last month out of 72 Cotton Mill Companies the shares of more than two-thirds were at a heavy discount, and yet the shareholders allow the managers or agents to continue this out-throat policy. But the time of retribution is upon them, if the latest mail reports regarding the poor out-turn of the Indian Cotton crop is anywhere near the truth. The crop for the coming season is estimated at one-half the average of the last three years, or 1,550,000 bales, whereas the Indian Mills, and hand Spindles in the country, consumed last year 2,063,000 bales alone, the export to Europe and the East amounting to 1,414,000 bales in addition! It seems plain then, these figures are correct, and they are certainly borne out by the Official reports, that the Indian Mills are forced to work short time, or shut up altogether, and therefore there will not be sufficient Yarn to supply the China demand, unless the Japan and Local Mills are able to make up the deficit, as there is no reason to believe that the Yarns re-exported from here this season have not been for legitimate consumption, but in spite of the enormous increase in this respect the supply sent to China from India is just 200/o in excess of requirements.

Our Mills have certainly had their share of reverses to contend against since they started, as did the Indian Mills, especially as regards obtaining the raw staple, and this difficulty will no doubt be overcome in time as it was in India. The improvement in the position is shown to some extent by the annual accounts of the International Mill that have just been published, the last twelve months working enabling them to reduce the balance at debit of Profit and Loss Account by Tls. 30,356.11 and write off Tls. 25,000 for depreciation besides, representing nearly 7 per cent. on the capital.

A local manager writes:—"The pessimistic views held by an Indian Mill manager should not be allowed to prejudice the shareholders of the Chinese Cotton Mills, as the drawbacks mentioned with regard to the work people are fast disappearing. This every manager here knew would exist for some time, knowing it was a question of training an agricultural into a manufacturing people, the majority of whom had never attended school or been subjected to discipline of any kind. When these points are considered and that in 2½ years these faults have been eradicated and the work people every day becoming more docile and expert at their

work, proves that a stranger who simply walks through the Mills and stays in China for a few days in qualified to speak on the possibilities of the Chinese Cotton Mills. Mr. Downs should have pointed out that the Mills here were having to face difficulties which the Indian Mills experienced 20 to 30 years ago."

THE INDIAN COTTON INDUSTRY.

(CONTRIBUTED).

Messrs. Noel Murray and Co., of Shanghai, in their weekly report on the Indian yarn trade dated the 25th November, write as follows:—

"The vindictiveness displayed by the Indian mills in swamping the China markets with yarn at prices that the majority lose money on—judging by the poor return they make to their shareholders—is greatly to be deplored," &c., &c., &c.

I am inclined to think that it is not vindictiveness, but sheer and hard necessity, caused by overproduction, which compels the Indian producers to flood our markets. India and Africa are very poor outlets and China is the *Ultima Thule* of Bombay spinners. In spite of plague, famine, and other obstructive causes the industry is yearly increasing. Let us glance at the following figures India possessed in:

1895—148 Mills running	380,99,29.	Spiindles and	35,338	Looms
1896—165 do	393,29,46.	do	37,170	do
1897—173 do	4,16,56,18.	do	37,584	do
1898—145 do	423,07,20.	do	38,613	do
1899—188 do	472,83,33.	do	39,69	do

These 188 mills represent a capital of over 14 crores of rupees, and it is rather unreasonable to suppose that with such an enormous amount of capital locked up in a single industry the Indian spinners will placidly sit down and regard with equanimity the growth of two of their most formidable competitors. The days of the millennium have yet to come; meanwhile we have to reckon with hard facts. The truth is, this is simply a question of long purse and survival of the fittest. Already two to three large mills in Bombay and about five to six in the Mofussil have collapsed and other rickety concerns will follow suit. Only the other day there was a very stormy meeting of the shareholders of an old and large concern in Bombay, when, amidst a shower of choicest Billingsgate to the directors and agents, sticks and umbrellas were nearly put in requisition, and the President had to postpone the meeting.

Amongst a variety of other cause, the bane of excessive production in India is the pernicious system of a quarter anna commission on every pound of the gross output to managers and promoters in some of the mills, whilst the system of low wages and allowance in some of the large Indian establishments in China may be accountable in no small degree for incessant heavy shipments.

ALPHA.

RAUB.

REPORT FOR OCTOBER.

The Manager's Report for the month of October last runs as follows:—

RAUB HOLE SECTION.

The winze below the 220 foot level is now down the required depth of 102 feet, and I have started to open out to see what the small rich chute of gold is like at this depth—322 feet. A short time should test its value. The crosscut going in east from the 220 foot level is now in 354 feet, the face being hard black slate and dry. The small prospecting shaft to test leader formation is down 57 feet. I will open out at 65 feet. We still continue to cut small gold-bearing leaders in sinking. There should be some good gold got in the bottom of the old workings, which were very rich when worked some years ago.

BUKIT HITAM.

Prospects in this section still continue very good. The main drive going south is now in 364 feet from main pump shaft. The lode in the face of drive has widened to 3½ feet and carries good gold all through. This lode has already proved to be payable over a long distance—639 feet from north to south—and has every appearance of extending indefinitely to the south. There are many thousands of tons of good ore exposed in this mine. The work so far done is entirely of a prospecting nature. In the intermediate drive going north there is a large

irregular body of ore going off to the east, and as it goes north it bears east at an angle of 20 degrees. This ore body carries fine gold for a long distance, and shows much better in bottom than it does in back of drive. The pumping engine with 8 inch pump for sinking the main engine shaft is finished, and we shall resume sinking this shaft on Monday next. The present depth of this shaft is 98 feet. I intend to sink it to a depth of 160 feet and open out the first permanent level at that depth. This will give an average of over 100 feet of backs to stoep below the old native workings. The double action 8 inch steam pump will keep the old workings free from water; while the 8 inch pump in the shaft will keep the shaft also free from water. I am afraid this is going to be a very wet mine, as it is surrounded by extensive swamps.

BUKIT KOMAN SECTION.

The main shaft, No. 1 level north, has been cleaned up and burst of water and slush which filled the level for nearly 100 feet has been made secure. A deviation had to be made to the west to avoid the bad ground. About 40 feet have been driven north since we started. The face of the drive is in hard black slate with quartz leaders through it carrying a little gold. This level is now in 814 feet from the crosscut. A crosscut is being driven east at 160 feet north of the main crosscut in a leader formation carrying fair gold. This drive is in 26 feet. The south end, same level, is now in 1,240 feet from the main crosscut, Bukit Koman shaft, and 90 feet south of the No. 1 south shaft. The lode in the face of the drive is about 3 feet wide and a good deal disturbed. It carries a little gold, but is not payable. Stopes over the back of this level are crushing stuff. I find most of the old—and supposed to be worked-out—stopes will have to be worked over again, as large bodies of ore are being found outside of what was supposed to be the main ore body. These discoveries add materially to our reserves of ore in this section. No. 2 Level.—In the north end we are driving a crosscut under the No. 5 north winze. We find there are several bodies of ore all carrying gold. This makes the ore reserves in this section very much greater than was estimated. In the south end of this level there are three faces driving on the lode, all carrying fair gold. The face going south from where the lode was first out is in about 50 feet—the lode being about 5 feet wide in the face. No. 1 North-Engine-Shaft.—This Shaft is one of the four main engine shafts which will eventually be connected at different levels. (No. 1 South is already connected with the No. 1 South Bukit Koman level) giving working command over from 6,000 to 7,000 feet on the line of lodes. This shaft is 1,220 feet north of the Bukit Koman main shaft and the same distance from the main Bukit Jelis engine shaft. The shaft is now down 82 feet in a large body of ore carrying fair gold. I cannot say what lode it is as I did not expect to cut quartz in this shaft since I located the shaft a good distance to the west of the line of the Bukit Koman lode. The lode appears to be a big strong one, the whole shaft being in quartz, with no sign of our being through it. It is underlying west, which is in the opposite direction to the Bukit Koman lode. Whatever it may prove to be, it is a big strong ore body, and carries good gold. The shaft is making a good deal of water. The Bukit Koman lode has been worked extensively by the natives on the Bukit Jelis Ketchil for over 100 feet wide.

BUKIT JELIS.

In this section the tunnel has been connected with the engine shaft at the Adit Level.

This gives command of some thousands of tons of crushing stuff in the hill. At the 150 foot level, we are driving north on three bodies of stone. No. 1 is in 30 feet from the crosscut. This will come under the drive in the prospecting shaft, and, as soon as we are in far enough—60 feet—will rise up and connect with the prospecting workings. Nos. 2 and 3 are being driven on two very promising bodies of stone carrying a little gold. Both these bodies of stone are improving but are hardly payable yet. No. 2 is in 57 feet, and No. 3 54 feet, from crosscut. The water still continues heavy at this level, and takes two 8 inch drawlifts on a 3 inch stroke, to keep it down.

BATTERY.

The usual general clean-up for the months of September and October took place on Monday last, the 6th instant, and resulted in a return of 1,868 ozs, 5 dwts, 0 grs. of melted gold from 2,007 tons of ore. This is several hundred tons below the usual quantity crushed, and was caused by the loss of four days repairing the machinery, the time of crushing being 7 weeks and 3 days. The following is the quantity of ore crushed from the different mines:—Bukit Koman, 1,865 tons; Bukit Kitam, 142 tons. Total 2,007 tons.

The yield is hardly up to the usual average owing to the great width of crushing stuff we are taking. Considering the enormous bodies of ore that we are working without any selection, I consider the return a splendid one; and few mines in the world, working under similar conditions, can show a better result.

ELECTRIC INSTALLATION.

On the Sempam Section.—Only very little progress is being made with the work on this, owing to the difficulty of getting transport. All the work, except putting the pipe line together and erecting the generating machinery, is completed. We are experiencing considerable difficulty in getting transport of the heavier parts of the machinery from Kuala Kubu to the Power station at Sempam, and to Raub, owing to most of the bullocks dying from rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease. This will cause a delay of at least two months in starting the new machinery. All work is finished on the cable track between Sempam and Raub, and between the Transforming Station and Battery Pump House.

NEW 40 STAMP BATTERY.

The erection of the new Mill is practically completed. We are now putting in the tables and are completing details. I hope in the course of a month or six weeks to have the new battery ready for work.

WM. BIBBY, manager.

JELEBUS.

WHY HAS THE STOCK FALLEN? WHAT THE DIRECTORS SAY.

Singapore, 27th November.

Since there have been many rumours in the market, during the last day or two, about the shares of the Jelevu Mining and Trading Company, Limited, it seems proper to state the following facts which have been obtained by enquiry from Mr. Joaquim, the Chairman of the Company, and Mr. Reid, a director.

After numerous unexpected and accidental delays with machinery—the delays that seem to take place everywhere from Raub downwards—it was expected to have started crushing at Jelevu this month. As a preliminary to crushing, the services of an experienced tin-dresser, a highly-technical officer, had been obtained; and he arrived. When he arrived he said in substance, "But where is the water for the tin-dressing? This water supply that you show me will not keep us going for more than four hours out of the twenty-four." There followed telegrams and letters, and it is to be feared there may follow recriminations, since the Board will ask certain explanations from persons on the spot. Meanwhile, the Board have ordered, and we think, have despatched the most powerful steam pump to be had in Singapore with two boilers to work it; and with that steam pump they propose to take water from an adjoining river, the pipes to connect the dressing house with the river having also been sent. There is unlimited water in the river. This arrangement will suffice temporarily, at all events; although, if additional heads of stamps are to be put down, further outlay will, no doubt, be required either for more pumping machinery or for obtaining additional water by gravitation and by constructing additional reservoir accommodation. As the funds of the Company, openly and admittedly, were only sufficient to last them until crushing began, without further outlay on machinery, it is not improbable that additional capital may have to be raised. If that should be necessary, the directors do not anticipate any unreasonable difficulty in obtaining it, although the situation is slightly complicated by the fact that, just at this particular moment, the lode at one point has disappeared. However, as Mr. Reid said affably to the reporter, such

disappearances are a part of the habit and nature of lodes, which like to be run after like ladies.

"But if, after running, you cannot find them?" said the reporter.

"Go to!" said Mr. Reid. "If you had commanded Kimberley, it would have been surrendered to the Boers."—*Straits Times*.

BOXING TOURNAMENT AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

A large audience assembled in the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening for the purpose of witnessing a boxing tournament which had been arranged. The principal event announced was a 12 round contest for a silver cup, between R. Hamilton, the coloured heavy weight champion of the West Indies, and Ben. Hughes, the heavy weight champion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, but before this came off several sparring exhibitions which proved very interesting came off: Ted Ryan met F. Howard of the U.S.N.; Sergeant A. Davies, of Cardiff, met Sergeant C. Nutmann, Birmingham; S. Staines met J. Berwick, of Quarry Bay, and J. Nolan met J. Watkins, of Sheffield.

Mr. Harper announced that he had received a medical certificate to the effect that R. Hamilton was not in a fit state to fulfil his engagement, and that Davies, of the *Barfleur*, had come forward in his place. When the men entered the ring it was at once seen that Hughes was by far the bigger man, and it was anticipated that he would have an easy victory. This opinion, however, underwent a change as soon as the fight began. Davies had much the best of it in the first three rounds. In the fourth and fifth rounds the competitors were about equal, but in the sixth round Davies began to show signs of distress and Hughes gave him one on the jaw which dazed him and which if followed up would have finished him altogether. As it was Davies took refuge outside the ropes. In the seventh round Davies put on a spurt, but he was evidently done up; before the round was finished he sank exhausted and not rising in the appointed time Hughes was declared the winner.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

COMMODORE'S CUPS RACES.

The first races for the above Cups were sailed on Saturday last in a light easterly breeze. The course was from the Police Pier at Tsim Sha Tsui round a mark-boat off Lyemou, Kowloon Rocks, port, and Meyer's East Buoy, starboard.

The starters in the First class were Maid Marion, Bonito, Chanticleer, Erica, Doreen, Gloria, and Active, and the last named boat received a time allowance of 5 minutes from the others.

Maid Marion got the best of a good start, but was soon passed by Bonito, which maintained the great improvement she has shown this season, and went extremely well—so well, that it is quite evident she will be a very hard boat to beat this season. Bonito was first round each of the marks, but after rounding Meyer's East buoy, Maid Marion, cleverly handled by Mr. Hastings, passed her. Meanwhile a fresher breeze brought up the Chanticleer and Active and a most exciting race home ensued between the four, which all crossed the winning line within a period of 30 seconds. Maid Marion secured the honour of being first, Bonito was second, with Chanticleer only one second behind. Active won easily on her time allowance, and her owner and helmsman (Mr. Pollock), who sails her with such dogged pluck against her powerful rivals in the A class, is to be heartily congratulated on his success, which we hope will be maintained in the next race for the Cup. The times of finishing were as follows:—

Active	3	37	43	first
Maid Marion	3	37	13	second
Bonito	3	37	24	third
Chanticleer	3	37	25	
Erica	3	40	26	
Doreen	3	40	37	
Gloria	3	45	28	

In the Second class Mr. Denison's new cruiser Marjorie made her debut and proved herself faster in light winds than was expected. A fine race ensued between her and Sybil to within some distance of the Lyemou mark, when Sybil

allowed herself to be blanketed by a large junk, which deprived her of her chances of the race. Doris, which had been very liberally treated in the handicap, won easily with some minutes of her time allowance to spare. Marjorie was second, and our old friend and companion Payne third.

We understand that the Commodore is presenting an additional Cup in this class to go to the best boat eligible for the Club races of the B class if none of the boats of that class win the first prize in this Competition.

The times of finishing were as follows:—

	Finish	correction	
Doris	4 0 0	3 48	0 1st
Marjorie	3 51 7	3 51	7 2nd
Payne	3 58 9	3 51	39 3rd
Meteor	3 55 30	3 52	0
Sybil	3 55 57	3 55	57
Dart	4 0 6	3 53	36
Ladybird	4 5 30	3 59	0
Princess	4 5 36	3 58	6

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB V. H.M.S. "BARFLEUR."

BY QUIDNUNO.

The utility of the Hongkong Football Club's Grand Stand was very clearly demonstrated on Saturday, for just as the hour appointed for the kick-off arrived there commenced a very heavy downpour of rain. Had it not been for the friendly shelter of the Stand the goodly number of spectators who had assembled would have been drenched to the skin. Mr. Mayson, the referee, was not up to time, and pending his arrival the teams also sought cover. When he was sighted the game was commenced, neither he nor the Club's goal-keeper being on the field. This latter fact nearly brought disaster to the Club, as the *Barfleur* forwards took the ball right down from kick-off and struck the bar with a shot, the Club's goal having a lucky escape.

The teams were as follows:—

Club:—J. A. Ross, goal; Looker and Hay backs; Jenkins, C. T. Kew, and Howard, halves; and Lowe, Noble, Danby, Hancock, and H. E. Green, forwards.

H.M.S. *Barfleur*:—Donald, goal; Bell and Spencer, backs; Hammond, Collier, and Crozier, halves; and Reynolds, Ross, Clark, Scriveus, and Price, forwards.

On account of the downpour the ground was sodden and slippery. The players were wet to the skin and experienced the utmost difficulty in keeping their feet.

After their first attack the sailors were soon dangerous again. Hay, the Club's left back, made a rather rash attempt to dispossess the opposing right wing, and missed, leaving Reynolds, the sailors' outside right, in a good position. This player, however, put past.

The state of the ground and ball rendered good football out of the question and accuracy of play impossible. Notwithstanding this the keenness of the players made the game both interesting and exciting.

The Club assumed the offensive and, pressing round the *Barfleur*'s goal, Bell, the sailors' back, put through his own goal in attempting to kick clear, the ball being so slippery.

After this the *Barfleur* had rather the best of matters and had hard lines in not scoring. Most of their attacks came from the right wing, which was rather too strong for Hay, the Club's left back; but all their five forwards combined well together. On one occasion they got off in a concerted run and made a very hot attack on the Club goal, the ball bobbing about in its vicinity for some time. Looker and his colleagues, however, managed to get it clear. The rain had now ceased and the ground getting drier the game became faster and play better. Both sets of forwards put in good runs and Lowe for the Club was conspicuous in a couple of excellent sprints along the touch line.

Half-time arrived with the score Club 1 goal, H.M.S. *Barfleur* nil.

At the re-start Hancock went between the sticks for the Club, Ross going outside left and Green inside left. Ross and Green showed pretty combination on the Club's left and initiated several attacks.

At the other end, the ball being put across from the left, Ross (*Barfleur*) headed over for the sailors.

Returning to the attack Reynolds (outside right) shot in strongly. Hancock punched out, and the ball being returned instantly from the left he smartly fisted clear again, defending his charge exceedingly well.

The sailors were not yet done with and made repeated strong attacks, but Looker showed excellent defence. The Club had their share of the play, all the halves and forwards doing well. A fine individual effort by Lowe brought the second goal for the Club. He out paced both half-back and back and sent in a quick shot right along the ground, which gave the goal keeper no chance. The game continued well contested but there was no addition to the score when time was called.

Result—Club 2 goals, H.M.S. *Barfleur* nil.

Although the *Barfleur* is a good team the Club fully deserved their victory. I have not seen them in such good form before this season. Looker was a distinct success at back and Jenkins was also good at right half. The forwards as re-arranged in the second half worked very well, but it is doubtful whether any improvement has yet been effected. Danby did well at centre forward, for a beginning, and he is certain to improve. Just yet he is, of course, a little strange to the position. Green is not nearly so serviceable on the outside as on the inside and when he plays with Hancock their positions should, I think, be reversed. Ross is a smart forward, but he was weak in his centres. Lowe, Noble, Kew and Howard played up to their best form, and that is all that is required. Hay was the weak spot in the team and was unfortunate in having the strongest wing against him. Pinckney is required in the team, for the Club has at present no better back.

The *Barfleur* team was well balanced, but the forwards if anything are its strongest division. Reynolds, outside right, is very clever and was most conspicuous amongst them.

In the football game on Monday F Co. Royal Welch Fusiliers was not good enough for the Hongkong Football Club. Noble and Danby each scored for the Club in the first half and the former, who was playing an exceedingly good game added a third with a very fine shot during the second period. The soldiers were unable to get through the Club defence and retired defeated by 3 goals to nil. Pinckney reappeared in the Club's team and the back division was considerably strengthened thereby being steadier than it has been for sometime.

The Hongkong Football Club's A team registered its first win on Wednesday afternoon in the return match with H.M.S. *Endymion*. In the first meeting of the teams on 15th ultimo the game finished "honours even," each side obtaining one goal, but this time the A's had the advantage and scored once to the sailors' nothing. Result Club 1 goal, H.M.S. *Endymion* nil.

The Victoria Recreation Club football team was short of several of its players on Wednesday in its encounter with H Co. Royal Welch Fusiliers, but had the assistance of three or four men from the 25th S.D., R.A. picked up on the ground. The game was very evenly contested, but H Co. managed to secure the verdict, scoring a goal near the end of the second half, the light at the time being very bad. Owing to a late start the match finished in the dark, H Co. winning as stated by one goal to nil.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 27th Novem'er says:—The Dutch oil steamer *Sultan van Langkat* grounded on the Bar at 4 p.m. on Friday and had to discharge a considerable quantity of kerosene. The British steamer *Queen Christina* stuck on the outer bar the same day and also had to discharge part of her cargo. Owing to the dense fog patches that passed over the river on Saturday morning, the P. & O. outward steamer *Malacca* got ashore below Josshouse spit, and the Japanese steamer *Fuso Maru*, bound in, grounded on the bar alongside of the *Sultan van Langkat*. Both vessels, however, got off on the afternoon's tide none the worse for the mishap. The *Sultan van Langkat* also floated that tide and the *Queen Christina* getting over the outer bar again stuck on the inner one and had to discharge more of her freight. She was expected to float again on yesterday afternoon's tide.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

BY QUIDNUNC.

4th December.

The following is a table of results of games played during the week. I wish to make this table a regular feature of these notes and I hope secretaries of teams will assist me to keep it correct and complete by forwarding the results of the matches in which their teams take part.

ASSOCIATION.

Monday, Nov. 27th

Hongkong F.C., 3 goals, A Co. R.W.F. nil
H.M.S. *Barfleur* 2 goals, 25th S.D., R. A. 1 goal

Wednesday, Nov. 29th

H.K. F.C., A team 1 goal; *Fame*, *Whiting* 1 goal
Saturday, Dec. 2nd

Hongkong F.C. 2 goals, H.M.S. *Barfleur* nil.
Engineers Institute F.C. nil, Royal Engineers Rec. Club nil.

RUGBY.

Thursday, Nov. 30th

Hongkong F.C. 5 goals=18 points, Royal Navy 1 try=3 points

All interested in the Association game in the colony will be sorry that the *Barfleur* team will not be competing in the Shield ties. It is a good team, and good teams are not plentiful here; also, as the *Victorious* will not be here to compete, the naval element will be altogether wanting in the competition, so the occurrence is rendered particularly unfortunate. A good many, including myself, would have been pleased if the Shield Committee's decision had been other than it is, but for all that there is no disputing the justice of that decision. The *Barfleur* team's own carelessness is the cause of their misfortune and the Shield Committee's firmness on this occasion will doubtless save much dispute in the future. The naval representative on the Shield Committee might have put in the entry. I see it is stated that there was a similar case with the R.E. in the first year of this competition, but this must be a mistake. The Shield has been won three times, and the Royal Engineers have competed on each occasion, so probably the incident referred to occurred during the season of the Cup competition, before the existence of the Shield.

In their match with the Hongkong Football Club last Monday A Co. R.W.F. were unfortunate in having to play a part of the game with three substitutes. During the second portion of the game they had quite as much of the play as the Club and taken altogether they were better than the score against them would indicate. Still, they were not so good as I had been led to expect. The Club defence on this occasion was very "rocky." Hay is not yet good enough for the first eleven. He requires plenty of practice with the A team, until he acquires experience and accuracy in kicking. In the meanwhile, as remarked elsewhere, Pinckney cannot be spared.

All that I have to say about the A team's game on Wednesday is that they are showing improvement in play though not in appearance. They still make a bad imitation of a rainbow. Why they should not appear in white shirts like their first team is not at all apparent to me.

The Rugby match, Club versus Navy, on Thursday was an excellent contest and attracted a large number of spectators. The game however, has already been reported in these columns.

Saturday's Association game, Hongkong Football Club versus H.M.S. *Barfleur*, I give a special report on.

The polo ponies spoil the turf at Causeway Bay and the soil they turn up whenever there is much rain becomes mud. In consequence, the rain on Saturday, which only deteriorated the game on the Hongkong Club's ground, utterly spoilt the match at Causeway Bay. The encounter between the Engineers Institute and Royal Engineers developed simply into mudlarking. No goals were scored by either side and some idea may be formed of the nature of the game when it is stated that neither goalkeeper had a shot to stop throughout.

The match arranged between the V.R.C. and H. Co. R.W.F. was put off on account of the rain and was re-arranged for Wednesday at 4.30.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. V. THE NAVY.

This match was commenced on Saturday, but had to be abandoned in the afternoon on account of the rain, when the scores stood as follows:—

THE CLUB.	
K. W. Mounsey, b Paul	28
Langhorne, c sub. b Franklin	4
T. J. Wild, c Moreton, b Strong	14
A. G. Ward, run out	9
Lieut. Johnson, R.W.F., b Elliott	0
Rev. G. R. Vallings, b Elliott	23
A. Mackenzie, c Wood, b Tuck	40
Lieut. Hill, b Paul	0
A. Woodgate, c Strong, b Elliott	24
Major Buttenshaw, not out	10
Dr. Atkinson, c Strong, b Elliott	0
Extras	18

Total 170

THE NAVY.	
Mr. E. A. Smith, not out	18
Mr. Franklin, c Wild, b Mackenzie	8
Dr. Tuck, b Woodgate	25
Lieut. Strong, b Woodgate	0
Lieut. Wood, not out	24
Extras	5

Total for 3 wickets 80

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BEST SCORE POOL FOR NOVEMBER.

There were 11 entries during the month and the following returns sent in.

Mr. E. A. Ram 7 down rec: 9 strokes
" H. L. Dalrymple ... 10 " " 8 "

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR DECEMBER.

Owing to heavy rain during the early part of the meeting the entries were not as numerous as usual, but some fair cards were returned.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Lieut. Field, R.N.	97	14	83
Major Luke, R.M., L.I.	95	11	84
Mr. G. Stewart	88	4	84
Comd. Davison, R.N.	103	13	90
Lieut. Rotherham, R.W.F.	103	13	90
Dr. J. Bell	112	16	96

17 entries.

POOL.

Above members made same returns for the Pool as well as

Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie	88	0	88
Mr. H. D. Dalrymple	103	11	92

10 entries.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In your able leader of the 1st instant, quoting from the *London Times*, you remark that the Boers had been arming for years, and that it could only have been directed against us. But surely there is nothing strange in the fact that they, in common with all other nations, should have armed to protect themselves against any possible, and in one case, very probable enemy. The idea that their object was to drive us out of Africa is a very far-fetched one, and probably no more true than that everybody would like to do the same to everybody else everywhere if they got the chance. As to the assertion that few Britishers dispute the justice of the war, I am inclined to think that you are somewhat mistaken on this point, and that there are many who are not blinded by race prejudice who consider it one of the most unjust and iniquitous wars ever waged, and if a plebiscite had been taken the war would probably have never come off. But given a statesman eager for present power and future glory (or shame!)—a capitalist class mad with the lust of gold, and a barbarian populace, and it is not difficult to get up a war. It was remarked by a certain paper recently that all killed in this war should have for an epitaph "Butchered to make a Rhodesian dividend," for it is for the "root of all evil" that men are slaughtering one another to-day in the Transvaal, the only pity of it being that those who make the war stand no chance of being called upon to fight them, in England,

as they would be in some other countries of Europe.—Yours truly,

VERITAS.

Hongkong, 2nd December, 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—Will you kindly allow me a few lines to reply to your leader of the 4th in reply to mine of the 2nd re the Transvaal War.

No doubt there is much truth in your arguments; but it is only one side of the question. There is at least as much to be said on the other side. Equal voting rights would have meant the subversion of the Transvaal as completely as by conquest. Let anyone read the history of our recent dealings with this state, as so ably set forth by Mr. Stead in the *October Review of Reviews*, and unless he is a Jingo, or a rampant Imperialist, I fail to see how he could form a very high conception of the political morality which led up to the war, a policy which, to quote the above gifted writer, "if it had been promoted by pirates with no other object than plunder, the only difference would have been that the pirate would not have said his prayers or masked his greed for plunder in the ostentatious garb of the Pharisee." It requires a pretty strong faith in humanity to believe that were there no gold fields in the Transvaal millions of money would be spent, and thousands of lives sacrificed merely for the sake of a wretched lot of Outlanders, the majority of whom, I believe, are not even British; and perhaps you will forgive me, Mr. Editor, for saying that I doubt whether you, or any of your readers who look below the mere superficiality of things, conscientiously believe it, although, of course, it is natural in this virtuous and sensitive age, that we should endeavour to persuade ourselves that everything is just and proper, otherwise we should not accomplish our ends and satisfy both our pockets and our conscience at the same time.

However, should this war, by some chance, lead up to conscription, there will be something gained besides gold, and those who make the wars in future will have to do something more than merely sit with thumbs up or thumbs down as spectators of the combat.

Yours truly,

VERITAS.

Hongkong, 5th December 1899.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

"SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' FAMILIES' FUND."

The Undersigned begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following subscriptions to the above Fund.

T. JACKSON,

Hon. Treasurer.

The "Missus & Kids Fund" as already acknowledged in *China Mail* ... \$1,824.50

Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Lan Wei	Chuen	
\$1,500		\$50	
Butterfield & Swire		E. S. Kelly	50
Reis & Co. 1,000		C. Inchbald	50
E. D. Sassoon & Co. 1,000		A. Donald	25
Shewan, Tomes & Co. 1,000		Mounsey & Brutton	25
Holliday, Wise & Co. 1,000		A. G. Stokes	25
Hongkong & Sh' Bank 1,000		J. R. Michael	25
Belilios & Co. 1,000		Yuen Hop	25
S. J. David & Co. 1,000		T. P. Cochran	25
John D. Humphrey & Son 1,000		A. Fuckeera	25
Chater & Mody 1,000		J. H. Lewis	25
David Sassoon, Sons & Co. 1,000		A. Babington	25
Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald, Captain, Officers, and Ship's Co. H.M.S. <i>Barfleur</i> 1,250		H. J. Gedge	25
Captain, Officers and Ship's Co. H.M.S. <i>Edgemoor</i> ... 560.30		S. R. E.	20
		Anonymous	20
		A. S. G.	20
		M. W. Slade	20
		Kenneth & May	20
		Allan Jones	20
		D. S. Dady	15
		Burjor	15
		J. J. Andrew	10
		A. Symons	10
		Anonymous	10
		A. H. Chinoy	10
		R. M. Mehta	10
		A. F. Soares	10
		Dr. G. M. Harston	10
		Rev. E. T. Johnson	10

Captain, Officers and Ship's Co. H.M.S. <i>Iphigenia</i> ...	433	Captain, Officers and Ship's Co. H.M.S. <i>Orlando</i> ...	437	Captain, Officers and Ship's Co. H.M.S. <i>Alacrity</i> ...	250	Captain, Officers and Ship's Co. H.M.S. <i>Redpole</i> ...	93.80	Captain, Officers and Ship's Co. H.M.S. <i>Plover</i> ...	90.83	Captain, Officers and Ship's Co. H.M.S. <i>Fume</i> ...	70	Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. Limited ...	500	Canton Insurance Office, Limited ...	500	D. Gillies ...	500	China Sugar Refining Co. Limited ...	500	Sir T. Jackson Douglas Steamship Co. ...	500	Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co. Limited ...	500	China and Manila Steamship Co. Ltd. ...	500	Green Island Cement Co. Limited ...	500	Gibb, Livingston & Co. ...	500	Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited ...	500	British Members of the Kowloon Customs ...	305	D. J. ...	250	Gilman & Co. ...	250	Johnson, Stokes & Master ...	250	Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co. Limited ...	250	J. J. Francis, Q.C. ...	250	E. S. Whealler Lane, Crawford & Co. ...	250	A. & S. Hancock ...	200	Joseph Walton, M.P. ...	200	W. G. Humphreys & Co. ...	200	Hongkong Ice Co. Limited ...	200	The "Mayfield Mess ...	150	L. S. Lewis £10 ...	102.12	St. Mary Magdalene Chapter of Rose Croix ...	100	Frank Leyburn ...	100	Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co. ...	100	Hon. T. H. Whitehead ...	100	W. K. Low P. de C. Morris ...	10	E. D. Sanders ...	10	P. ...	10	S. A. Joseph ...	10	Wm. Parlance ...	10	M. J. Patell ...	10	B. Byramjee ...	10	C. W. May ...	10	S. G. Tops ...	10	The Misses Egerton ...	10	W. Lysaught ...	10	A. H. Banlow ...	10	J. S. Ezekiel ...	10	P. A. Barlow ...	10	J. S. Bruce ...	10	Fred. G. Price ...	10	A. F. Williamson ...	10	J. Keenan ...	10	Yung Hin Pong ...	10	Chuen Chong & Co. ...	10	Ellis Kelly ...	10	J. P. Madar ...	10	W. Mayson ...	10	E. Mast ...	10	W. E. Clement ...	10	Hon. Wei A Yuk ...	10	Lau Chu Pak ...	10	C. J. M. ...	10	B. Tidy ...	10	F. H. Yeats ...	5	R. D. Thomas ...	5	R. D. Vania ...	5	D. D. Gazdar ...	5	Mak Heung ...	5	Miss H. Se ...	5	lend Fletcher ...	5	Mrs. J. Ackers ...	5	H. Ruttonjee ...	5	A. Mackenzie ...	5	Chas. F. Smith ...	5	Kodak ...	5	Chas. H. W. Kew ...	5	Yee Shun ...	5	John Lemm ...	5	J. S. Sander ...	5	I. S. H. ...	5	A. P. Nobbs ...	5	James Baggaridge ...	5	G. E. B. ...	5	M. S. S. ...	5	D. Haskell ...	5	A. R. Carre ...	5	E. P. Harold ...	5	C. Lalf s.s. ...	3	Hue ...	3	F. Wengel s.s. ...	5	H. U. Lichard s.s. ...	3	Hue ...	3	R. Moir s.s. ...	3	Chowtai ...	3	P. S. W. s.s. ...	5	T. W. Pickard, steamer ...	1	Kiukiang ...	1	Wm. Johnston, steamer ...	1	Kiukiang ...	1	J. McNaughton, steamer ...	1	Kiukiang ...	1	Wm. Wilson s.s. ...	2	A. J. C. s.s. ...	1	Diamante ...	1	A. H. Macdonald s.s. ...	2	Diamante ...	2	A. L. M. s.s. ...	2	Diamante ...	2	A. McConechie ...	100	A. P. Stokes ...	100	The "Star" Ferry Co., Limited ...	100	J. M. Beattie ...	100	H. A. Ritchie ...	100	Douglas, Lapraik & Co. ...	100	A. G. Wood ...	100	John D. Hutchison & Co. ...	100	Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Victoria ...	100	Victoria Preceptory ...	50	W. G. Lay ...	50	Rev. R. E. Cobbold ...	50	Dr. & Mrs. Hartigan ...	50	E. W. Mitchell ...	50	The Canton Community, as follows:—		F. B. Smith ...	25	G. D. Fearon ...	25	T. E. Griffith ...	25	F. Salinger ...	25	S. Hanisch ...	25	A. W. Cross ...	25	B. C. George ...	20	Scott ...	20	E. T. Bond ...	20	B. Stewart ...	20	Ringer ...	20	H. E. Wadman ...	15	D. Sugden ...	15	A. S. Watson & Co. ...	15	E. Finlayson ...	15	C. Lafrerby ...	10	E. A. Stanton ...	10	I. Mc. Isaac ...	10	E. D. C. Wolfe ...	10	John Naismith ...	10	W. Gater ...	10	S. E. Beeton ...	10	G. D. Pitsipios ...	10	H. L. Higgs ...	10	P. F. David ...	10	J. S. Duff ...	10	A. Vivian ...	10	Hogg ...	10	C. T. Robinson ...	10	H. W. Hine ...	10	W. Peacock ...	10	D. Beatty ...	10	C. L. Simpson ...	10	H. Staples ...	10	F. M. Baddeley ...	10	R. Walter ...	10	R. L. Warren ...	10	R. Soanes ...	10	A. Lay ...	10	W. Nelson Lovatt ...	10	R. J. Mackenzie ...	5	G. A. Bunbury ...	5	H. E. Williams ...	5	Total ...	\$29,455.55	A. F. Greig s.s. ...	2	Diamante ...	2	W. F. K. s.s. ...	5	Diamante ...	2	J. P. W. s.s. ...	2	Diamante ...	2	K. B. Knight s.s. ...	3	Beng ...	1	B. S. E. s.s. ...	5	Kong Beng ...	5	C. A. Hillie s.s. ...	3	T. Roberts s.s. ...	8	V. Lidell s.s. ...	1	E. Hubbard ...	5	D. Duncan ...	5	J. Tweedie ...	5	J. H. Barton ...	5	G. W. Sheppard ...	5	C. Lindberg ...	5	Madar & Farmer ...	5	E. Dewstoe ...	5	J. B. Vasunia ...	3	M. N. Mehta ...	3	E. Drichen ...	3	F. R. da Cruz ...	3	W. Duncan ...	3	G. E. Bell ...	2	H. Pearson ...	2	E. Jervis ...	2	W. F. Langford ...	2	G. E. Hoskins ...	2	Bomanjee & Co. ...	2	C. Cokerjee & Co. ...	2	C. C. Karanjira ...	2	M. N. Gobhai ...	2	S. R. Futakia ...	2	J. B. Bhesania & Co. ...	2	B. F. Kavarana ...	2	S. E. Kavarana ...	2	H. K. Dhabhar ...	2	G. W. Sharnhorst ...	2	J. Thomas ...	2	L. Smith ...	2	H. Surpice ...	2	G. H. King ...	2	T. H. Smith ...	2	F. R. H. Croft ...	2	F. Heilman ...	2	H. E. Brackston ...	2	M. Thomas ...	2	A. Martin ...	2	E. C. Carrington ...	2
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Mr. H. O. G. Bax-Ironside, Secretary of Legation and ex-Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, arrived at Shanghai on the 29th November on his way home on a year's furlough.

The *Straits Times* says:—People in Singapore who want to buy horses and are surprised at the increase in prices may as well know that that increase is due solely to the Transvaal War. The Imperial Government have buyers in Sydney, Melbourne, and elsewhere; and, when the mail left Australia, they had bought upwards of 2,000 horses. Since then, they have probably bought many more.

THE CHINESE CUSTOMS TARIFF.

Shanghai, 30th November.

H. E. Sheng, Director-General of Railways, etc., etc., has been detained at Peking by order of the Empress Dowager to assist in the consideration of the question of revision of the Customs Tariff, revision of course meaning increase. H. E. Nieh, formerly Taotai of Shanghai and at present the Treasurer of this province is associated with Sheng in this task, and it is considered probable that the latter will be made a Minister of the Tsungli Yamen to give him the necessary standing to negotiate. With all its efforts and all Kwang Yi's extortions the Board of Revenue finds itself still face to face with a big deficit, and as internal financial reform is hopeless under the rule of the Empress Dowager, the only expedient is an increase of the Customs tariff. The Government has put this off as long as possible as it involves two courses which it detests; asking a favour from foreign Powers, and investigating its own fiscal abuses. The opening of the question of revision was waiting for the return of Sir Claude MacDonald to Peking, the Chinese counting upon all the other Powers following suit if England agrees to their proposals. The Chinese have been told that we are quite ready to agree to a revision of the tariff, if it is accompanied by a complete reform of inland taxation, and on this Sir Claude will doubtless insist.

Shanghai, 4th December.

We announced on Thursday that B.E. Shêng, Director-General of Railways, was charged by the Empress Dowager with the task of arranging with the Powers for a revision of the tariff. On Friday, the 1st instant, a decree was accordingly issued appointing H.E. Shêng Imperial High Commissioner with plenary powers to consult on this question with the Treaty Powers. —*N. C. Daily News.*

LI HUNG CHANG'S NEW
APPOINTMENT.

The *N. C. Daily News* Native correspondent telegraphs from Peking under date of 24th November as follows:—

Two censors conjointly memorialised the Empress Dowager yesterday to the effect that the success Kang Yi had met in raising funds for the exchequer although good would have been far better had he been one in whom the mercantile classes and traders believed, hence it followed that Kuangtung and Kuangsi had only been partly exploited for the good of the State. This argument struck the Empress Dowager as a very cogent one and she consulted with the Grand Council as to the man who possessed most fully the confidence of the mercantile classes, among the high Ministers of the Court. The reply was unanimously in favour of Li Hung-chang will the result that H. E. was this morning appointed "High Commissioner on Commercial Affairs, with instructions to visit the various treaty ports and investigate the conditions therein." This appointment has been made not exactly in favour of the commercial and trading classes, but really for the purpose of persuading these people to contribute more generously to the needs of the Empress Dowager's armies.

The *N. C. Daily News*. in a later issue says—It is reported that H.E. Li Hung-chang obtained his recent appointment through his co-Grand Secretary Jung Lu. One day the latter called upon the former and during the conversation Li complained of his unsatisfactory position in Peking and begged Jung Lu to procure him some active employment. The outcome was Li's appointment as Investigating Commissioner of Commercial matters in the Treaty ports. The report shows two points in favour of Jung Lu; he gets another of the *protégés* of the Empress Dowager out of Peking, and secures the gratitude of Li for getting him an active post.

The German steamers *Suitoi* and *Suian*, now in course of construction, are expected, the *N. C. Daily News* says, to be in commission by the end of this month, when they will be put on the Shanghai-Hankow run.

SANDAKAN NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

21st November.

The *Labuan* was released by the American authorities at Manila on the 10th inst., and arrived here on the 13th inst. Captain Pfort had, however, to pay a fine of \$240, being \$2 (Mexican) per ton on the ship's tonnage. This insignificant penalty clearly shows that the Americans made a mistake in seizing the ship, and probably a heavy claim will be made to recompense her owners.

The last steamer arriving here from Sulu reports that Zamboanga is now in the possession of the Americans. It was expected all along that the taking of this place would be a somewhat difficult piece of work, but it turned out to be an entirely bloodless victory.

On the departure of their proprietor from these parts the Sandakan Engineering Works have been purchased by the China-Borneo Co., Limited. This latter Co. has also purchased the steam-launch *Dart* from the same quarter.

It is understood that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. have abandoned the German competition on the Hongkong-Borneo run, and do not intend to trade here again on their own account. It is hard to understand their reason for this, as unquestionably the *Mausang* made money all the time she was on the run. The result is that this British Colony has now to rely absolutely upon German steamers for all its communication with the outer world.

THE PLAGUE AT KOBE

THE TOWN PRACTICALLY FREE

Kobe 27th November.

No new case of plague has been reported in Kobe since the 17th inst., the suspected case of the maid-servant at the wax refinery having been now declared not to be the disease. Within a few days it is expected that the medical authorities will declare the port free of plague. As we have said before, it seems to us that the local authorities cannot be too highly praised for the energy with which they have dealt with the outbreak. If, as may now be hoped the disease has been effectually stamped out in a fortnight, after seven cases had occurred, our local authorities have succeeded in doing what no other port in the Far East has done.

A case of suspected plague occurred at Moji on Friday, and the patient was at once isolated.

The guild of coolie contractors has engaged four doctors for the inspection of the men, one of the doctors being stationed at Hyogo, and the three others remaining in the head office at Sakayemachi. The men examined daily average 1,200, and the expenditure required exceeds 30 yen a day.

It is believed that the prohibition of theatrical and other entertainments will shortly be removed, but, even in the event of the total suppression of the plague, the examination of the health of the people and the cleansing of the streets and premises now being carried out, will be continued for about six months, as a matter of precaution and in order to promptly deal with any outbreak that may occur.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

HONGKONG.

Fifty Indians have arrived in the colony from India for service as police in the New Territory.

There were 2,654 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 207 were Europeans.

The M.M. homeward bound mail steamers will in future leave at noon on Monday instead of Saturday as hitherto.

On Saturday afternoon the remains of P.C. Robert Patterson, who died suddenly the previous afternoon, were interred. Deceased, who was 50 years of age, was sitting on the verandah at Tsat Tse Mui Police Station, Quarry Bay, at about half-past three, when he suddenly became unwell. He went to his quarters and died about half an hour afterwards. Deceased had been at Tsat Tse Mui for seven years and was much respected by the locality. He came to Hongkong in August, 1884. He had served previously in the Dundee Police Force, the Royal Irish Constabulary, and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He was a native of Banffshire, Scotland. Deceased was a member of the United Service Lodge of Freemasons, No. 1341, and the funeral was attended by brethren of that and other Masonic Lodges.

The only case of communicable disease reported last week was one of enteric fever imported by the *Gefion* from Shanghai.

Owing to the scarcity of steamers in the East, the stock of coal at Moji is rapidly accumulating. There are said to be some 500,000 tons awaiting shipment.—*Nagasaki Press*.

H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia was entertained to dinner in the German Club on Saturday evening by a large assembly composed of German gentlemen who had formerly served in the German army.

The Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club announces performances of the laughable farce "Mother-in-Law" on Thursday, 21st, and Saturday, 23rd December. After the recent success in "The Magistrate," which showed that the A.D.C. is at present exceptionally rich in talent, the new piece will be looked forward to with much interest.

After having been closed for some time the premises formerly known as the Windsor Hotel, in Queen's Road Central, were re-opened on the 1st inst. as a private hotel under the name of Connaught House, with Mr. Antonio Fonseca as manager. Considerable structural alterations have been made and every room has been re-decorated and is being re-furnished. At present only about half of the rooms are available, but Mr. Fonseca expects to have the whole ready by next week end. A visit to the premises showed that everything is being done to make those who stay there comfortable.

In view of the Sanitary Board's taking into consideration the destruction of rats on the ground of their being propagators of plague the following from the *Kobe Chronicle* is of some interest:—It is stated that since the encouragement given by the authorities to the destruction of rats on account of the outbreak of plague, the sale of rat-traps has increased largely, and the stocks at Osaka and Kobe have been exhausted. A doctor writing to the local vernacular press points out that cement mixed with boiled rice is an effective rat-destroyer, as the cement hardens in their stomachs after they have eaten it. This method, however, is open to great objections. For besides the cruelty of the method itself, there is always the danger that the rat may die in some hole, and rot there undiscovered, thus making matters worse. From the number of dead rats lying about in the roadways it hardly seems to be realised that the mere killing of the rats is not enough. Their bodies should be destroyed by fire.

At the Magistracy on Saturday, before Mr. Gompertz, Mr. T. H. Reid appeared to give evidence against ricksha coolie No. 43, whom he had summoned for using abusive and insulting language. He said that on Thursday night, between six and seven o'clock, he hired defendant to take him from the wharf at Kowloon to Knutsford Terrace. On paying him his legal fare and after he had gone a short distance from him defendant began to use insulting language. Complainant went back to take defendant's number. Defendant ran away. He followed him about a mile and a half, and when in Macdonnell Road defendant dropped his ricksha and bolted. Complainant searched the ricksha, but could not find the license. He took everything movable out of the ricksha to the Police Station and asked Inspector Macdonald to find the man out and get him summoned. He identified defendant as the man whom he hired.—Defendant said that he was going to put on another jacket, as the day was cold, when complainant rushed at him and wanted to strike him with a stick. Complainant did not touch him, as he ran away.—Complainant said he did not threaten to strike defendant. He was never within ten yards of him until he got into Macdonnell Road. He added that he had brought this case before His Worship because the ricksha coolies in Kowloon are particularly annoying, especially to women folk. There were not many people who would take the trouble to prosecute, because they had to go to Yau-mati to lay their complaint and doing that and appearing at the Magistracy took up considerable time. He asked His Worship to deal severely with defendant in order to prevent other ricksha coolies in Kowloon from being so abusive and cheeky as they had been.—His Worship said he was glad defendant had been prosecuted. Some people would have assaulted the coolie. He would be fined \$5, or seven days.

The flags at Government House and Headquarters House were half-masted on Thursday, in consequence of the death of Sir Charles Mitchell, Governor of the Straits Settlements. The cause of Sir Charles Mitchell's death, was paralysis.

Miss Halverson, the American Missionary doctor, married her Chinese fiancé at the establishment of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, in Pokfulam Road, on Tuesday, the Rev. C. R. Hager performing the ceremony.

At the regular meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 525, held on Friday evening, Wor. Bro. G. Piercy was re-elected Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year. Wor. Bro. G. J. B. Sayer, P.M., was elected Treasurer. A sum of \$250 was voted from the Lodge funds to the Patriotic Fund for the relief of the sufferers by the Boer war.

The sentence of death passed upon Tang Tai on the 20th ult. for the murder of another coolie named Fong Wai, by striking him on the head with a bamboo pole, has been commuted by H. E. the Governor in Council to 10 years' imprisonment with hard labour. It will be remembered that the jury who found prisoner guilty of murder, recommended him to mercy.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, General Managers of Clivers Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received a telegram from the Mines giving the result of the November crushing as follows:—685 tons of quartz crushed for a yield of 437 ozs. of smelted gold; mill ran 26 days. From advices received by the *Airlie* the General Managers learn that the yield for October included 50 ozs. gold obtained from scraping amalgamation plates.

At the Magistracy on the 1st December Chan Kat, postman No. 7, was sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment for unlawfully delaying a registered letter. On the 27th November a registered letter from Rangoon to Hongkong was handed to defendant for delivery. On the 30th November, in consequence of a report made to him, Mr. A. Barron, superintendent of the registration and parcels department, asked defendant to show him his drawer. In the drawer he found three registered letters, including the one in question. If defendant could not deliver the letter it was his duty to return it to the No. 1 postman.

We regret to have to announce the death, Mr. H. J. Holmes, solicitor, which occurred on Sunday at his residence, Kowloon. Mr. Holmes had been resident in the colony for very many years, having come out as clerk to Judge Ball in 1862. After serving in that capacity for some years, he was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court. He was a prominent member of the old Volunteer Corps, in which he held a commission, and he took a keen interest in rifle shooting up to quite recently. He leaves a widow and a grown-up family. One of his sons is a lieutenant in the Irish Fusiliers and was one of those who had the misfortune to be taken prisoners by the Boers. Mrs. Holmes left for home recently, in ill-health, and much sympathy will be felt with her and her children in their bereavement.

At the Magistracy on Saturday, five persons were charged with attempting to remove the body of a shroff employed by Mr. Ho Tung from the colony without a permit, these persons being deceased's widow, an undertaker and his runner, the coolie who carried the body on to a boat, and the boatman himself. It appears that the body was found at No. 5 Wa On Lane, on the 30th November, by Sanitary Inspector Fisher. He had it removed to the mortuary and reported to Dr. Clark that there were no suspicious circumstances, and consequently a certificate for burial was issued. In the meantime Dr. Atkinson made a post mortem examination of the body and reported to the police that death had been caused by poisoning. Immediately afterwards it was found that the body had been removed from the mortuary, not for burial in colony by virtue of the certificate given by Dr. Clark, but to be taken to Canton. The Police searched for the body, and found it in an undertaker's boat in Yau-mati Bay. Chief Detective Inspector Hanson had the boat towed over to West Point, and the body removed to the mortuary. Defendants were remanded.

The flag of the German Club and the German songs were half-masted on Saturday in consequence of the death of Mr. Carl Benemann, news of which was received by telegram by Messrs. Arnhold, Kistberg & Co. on Saturday morning. Mr. Benemann retired from the firm named, in which he was a partner, on the 31st December last, and left for home in March. He was in ill-health at the time of his departure, but it was not expected that his illness would have an unfavourable termination. His death is believed to have occurred in Hanover. Mr. Benemann was much respected both in Hongkong, where he was latterly stationed, and in Shanghai and Hankow, and the regret felt at his death by the German community will be fully shared in by all who knew him.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	4,514,030	10,608,322
Amoy.....	379,375	684,252
Foochow	14,664,853	12,172,927
Canton	5,171,290	4,229,959
	29,761,748	27,295,460

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	1,222,849	1,132,577
Amoy	11,343,666	10,275,881
Foochow	7,652,225	6,995,649
	20,218,739	17,804,307

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—The market is rather easier. Quotations for Formosa are \$83.50 to \$84.00 sales 570 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—The market shows some improvement and prices have an upward tendency. Quotations are:

Shenklong, No. 1, White...	\$8.53 to \$8.60	pel.
do. " 2, White...	7.80 to 7.85	"
Shenklong, No. 1, Brown...	5.65 to 5.70	pel.
do. " 2, Brown...	5.55 to 5.60	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	8.40 to 8.45	"
do. " 1, White...	7.70 to 7.75	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.60 to 5.65	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.45 to 5.50	"
Foochow Sugar Candy...	12.25 to 12.30	"
Shenklong	11.25 to 11.30	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P & O steamer *Melacea*, sailed on the 2nd December. For Manchester:—8 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—1 case ivoryware. For London:—6 cases cigars from Manila, 229 bales canes, 3 cases bristles. For Havre and Hamburg:—20 boxes bristles 90 bales waste silk, 2 cases curries, 1 case preserves, 30 bales grass, 1020 rolls mats and matting, 3 cases China ink, 27 cases gangs, 37 cases blackwoodware, 82 cases Chinaware, 301 bales preserves, 59 bales feathers, 3 cases cigars, and 5,051 boxes tea (particulars unknown).

Per German steamer *Anam*, sailed on the 2nd December. For Marseilles:—267 bales raw silk, 7 cases silks, 10 cases essential oil, 264 cases curries, 647 packages tea, 66 packages matting, 100 packages galangal, and 50 cases staranised. For Havre:—19 cases porcelain and 3 cases blackwoodware. For Lyons:—315 bales raw silk. For Zurich:—5 bales raw silk. For London:—1 case silks.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—Bengal.—The market has further improved, quotations closing at \$917 for New Patna and \$91 for New Benares.

Malwa.—There has been no alteration in rates, latest figures being as under:—

New \$900 with all'ce. of — to — catty.	
Old \$910 " " " " " " "	
Persian.—Same as when last reported, and quotations have not undergone any change. Current quotations are \$820 for Oily and \$850 to \$840 for Paper-wrapped.	
To-day's stocks are estimated as follows:—	
New Patna.....	848 chests.
New Benares.....	235 "
Malwa.....	571 "
Persian	1129 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Dec. 2	932	—	878	—	900	910
Dec. 3	893	—	878	—	900	910
Dec. 4	891	—	880	—	900	910
Dec. 5	902	—	890	—	900	910
Dec. 6	915	—	905	—	900	910
Dec. 7	917	—	907	—	900	90
Dec. 8	917	—	910	—	900	910

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—Moderate business transpired, market closing quiet. Stock, about 800 bales.

Bombay.....	22.00 to 23.50 picul.
Kurrachee	— to — "
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca	22.50 to 24.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese, ...	26.00 to 26.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.....	26.50 to 27.00 "
Ma ras (Best)	— to — "
Sales: 88 bales Bengal (Rangoon, new), Dacca.	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—The market continues active and prices still have an upward tendency. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.65 to 2.90
" Round, Good quality	3.20 to 3.25
" Long	3.55 to 3.60
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No 2 ...	3.20 to 3.25
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	3.55 to 3.60
" White	3.90 to 3.95
" Fine Cargo.....	4.25 to 4.30

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn:—1,050 bales No. 10 at \$78 to \$90, 450 bales No. 12 at \$80 to \$88, 300 bales No. 16 at \$91 to \$101, 850 bales No. 20 at \$93 to \$103. Japanese Yarn:—50 bales No. 16 at \$98, 150 bales No. 20 at \$101 to \$103. Grey Shirtings.—500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$4.50, 2,500 pieces 10 lbs. Palm Chop at \$4.57, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Red 7 boys at \$2.95, 250 pieces 10 lbs. 2 Gold Lion at \$4.45, 500 pieces 10 lbs. 2 Gold Lion at \$4.42, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Red Seal at \$3.02, 250 pieces 10 lbs. 2 stag \$4.40, 50 bales No. 10 at \$78.50, 50 bal s. No. 10 at \$81.00, 50 pieces No. 12 at \$81.50, 50 pieces No. 20 at \$97.00. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.80, 250 pieces S Q at \$4.85, 200 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.65, 2,000 pieces No. 1 Gold Joss at \$3.75, 2,500 pieces O Chop at \$4.80, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.80, 200 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.65, 250 pieces S Q at \$4.85, 250 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.80, 250 pieces S Q at \$4.85, 250 pieces 600 at \$4.87, 200 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.65, 1,000 pieces Fox and Duck at \$5.87. T. Cloths.—600 pieces 18 lbs. Chop V V at \$3.22, 600 pieces 8 lbs. V V at \$3.20. Drills.—150 pieces 14 lbs. Peacock Chop at \$4.30.

Metals.—Quicksilver.—50 flasks at \$175.50.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 8th December.

LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand.....	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight ..	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ..	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/-
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	2/-
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2/17
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/52 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2/0
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	48 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145 1/2
Bank, on demand	146
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145 1/2
Bank, on demand	146
ON SHANTUNG.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 60 days' sight	72 1/2

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand

ON MANILA.—

On demand

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per tal

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—The market has shown more activity during the week under review and rates in many cases show an improvement.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—After small sales at 349 per cent. prem. a further demand at 350 per cent. prem. was not met, but at time of closing shares are on offer at that rate. On time sales have been effected at 364 for February and 367 for March. Nationals remain steady at quotation with no sales to report.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders are on offer at \$58, Unions at \$240, and Cantons at \$130, all without business. All these Companies were somewhat heavily interested in the *Hupek* loss, which accounts for the temporary weakness of the stocks. Straits are enquired for at \$2 1/2, but seem unobtainable at that rate. In the absence of local business quotations for the Northern Insurances are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs and Chinas have both changed hands at quotations in small lots.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have improved to \$51 after small sales at \$30 1/2. Indo Chinas show a further decline with sellers at \$85, after small sales at \$88, \$87, and \$86. Douglasses are firmer with buyers at \$48 after sales at \$47 1/2. China Manilas continue neglected with no business at quotation. China Mutuals could probably be placed at quotations, but no shares seem to be available.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have found small buyers at \$123 and \$122, closing with small sellers at the latter rate. Luzons have been placed at quotation.

MINING.—Punjoms remain very quiet with no business except a small sale of preferences at \$1.30 to report; market closes with sellers at \$7 1/2 to \$7 1/4. Olivers have improved to \$9 A and \$7 B. Charbonnages remain quiet at \$300, but with probable buyers at that rate. Queens neglected at 40 cents. Great Easterns have changed hands at 70 cents and Raubs at \$62. Jelebus, which were rushed up to \$14 1/2, close quiet with sellers at \$12 1/2. The mining market in general has ruled very dull.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued neglected and out of favour with only very small sales at 524 per cent. prem., market closing with sellers at \$525. Kowloon Wharves after sales at \$84, \$83 1/2, and \$83, again improved with sales to a considerable extent at \$84, \$84 1/2, and \$85; market closes firm at \$85 to \$85 1/2. Wanchais continue steady to strong at \$45 with business. Amoy Docks could be placed at \$19 1/2 to \$20, but no shares seem available under \$21.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been in good demand and have changed hands in fair lots at \$110, \$111, and \$112, closing steady at \$112. Kowloon Lands remain unchanged and without business. Hotels have been enquired for, the enquiry resulting in a rise in the rate to \$120, after small sales at \$115 and \$117; market closes, however, quieter at \$119. West Points continue steady with sales at quotation. Humphreys Estates continue weak with sellers and small sales at \$9 1/2.

COTTON MILLS.—With no local business to report quotations are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars except in the case of Hongkong.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have declined to \$26 1/2. Ropes have changed hands and are enquired for at \$200. Ices are wanted at \$125 after sales. Other stocks under this heading remain steady with no business to report.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	\$50 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, ordv.	\$4	\$1.
Do. deferred	\$1	\$5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$30.
Foun. Shares...	\$8	\$30.
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	\$1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$14, buyers
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$94, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$122, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 70
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 73.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 56, sellers
Hongkong	\$100	\$18, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$5, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$424, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$262, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$25.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$104, s'ls ex n. is.
H. H. L. Tramways	\$10	\$2.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$1474.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$119, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$126 s'ls & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$45, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$200, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$525 p. ct. prem. =
China Fire	\$20	[\$7814, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$130, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$88, buyers
North-China	\$25	\$58, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$3274.
Union	\$50	Tls. 190.
Yangtze	\$60	\$20, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$240, sales & s'ls.
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$110.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$112, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$94, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$28, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$30, buyers
Gt. Estn. & C'domin	\$5	\$300, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	70 cts., sellers
Jeheh	\$5	40 cts., sellers
Queen's Mines Ltd...	25c	\$124, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A...	\$5	40 cts., sellers
Do. B.	\$44	\$9.
Punjom	\$6	\$7, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$74, sellers
Raub	15s 10d	\$110, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$62, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$20, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$90, sellers
China Ordinary	\$10	\$294, buyers
Do.	\$5	\$29, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$5, sellers
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$48, buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$31, buyers
Shell Transport and	\$100	\$85, sellers
Trading Co.		\$240 sales
Sta. Ferry	\$74	\$21, buyers
Tebran Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$4
D.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$374	\$45, sales & buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$154, sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—Freights continue firm, owing to scarcity of tonnage. From Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents is offered; to one port Java (North Coast) 35 cents last fixture; to one port Philippines, three steamers have been closed at 36/37 cents. Hence to Yokohama, 25 cents per picul; to Kobe same rate. Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 35 cents per picul is offered for medium sized carriers. Japan coal freights.—Mojito to Hongkong, \$3.25 per ton has been paid, and more tonnage is wanted at this figure; to Singapore, \$3.75 per ton. Sailing vessels.—Hence to New York, no demand.

There is one vessel disengaged in port registering 1,424 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Vale of Doon—British bark, 669 tons, two trips Rajang to Hongkong, \$17, 00 in full.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Mantung to Singapore, 25 cents per picul.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, Hongkong to Yokohama, 25 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Moji to Swatow, \$3.10 per ton.

Jacob Diederichsen—German steamer, 712 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.25 per ton.

Benlomond—British steamer, 1,752 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3 per ton.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,574 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.25 per ton.

Georgian Prince—British steamer, 2,078 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.75 per ton.

Taiifu—German steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,198 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Zweena—British steamer, 241 tons, Saigon to Sourabaya, 35 cents per picul.

Pronto—German steamer, 719 tons, Saigon to Manila, 374 cents per picul.

Knirsberg—German steamer, 646 tons, Saigon to Iloilo, 36 cents per picul.

Hainan—German steamer, 647 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 374 cents per picul.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, two ports Java to Hongkong, 48 cents per picul.

Knirsberg—German steamer, 646 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, 45 cents per picul.

Loksang—British steamer, 979 tons, two trips Bangkok to Hongkong, 28/33 cents per picul.

Hainan—German steamer, 741 tons, monthly, 3 months, at \$4,500 per month.

Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, monthly, 3 months, (recharter), private terms.

Trym—Norwegian steamer, 710 tons, monthly, 8 months, private terms.

Knirsberg—German steamer, 646 tons, monthly, 2 months, \$4,750 per month.

Independent—German steamer, 1,04 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$6,000 per month.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$8,500 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Clyde (str.), *Patroclus* (str.), *Indomeneus* (str.), Japan (str.), *Socotra* (str.).

For LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—*Tantalus* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Koenig Albert* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Annam* (str.), *Silesia* (str.), *Hakata Maru* (str.), *Yarra* (str.), *Awa Maru* (str.).

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Wittenberg* (str.), *Sarnia* (str.), *Konigsberg* (str.), *Ambria* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), *Doric* (str.).

For SA. DIEGO VIA KOBE.—*Strathgyle* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C. VIA SHANGHAI.—*Saint Irene* (str.), *Riojun Maru* (str.).

For PORTLAND, O.—*Monmouthshire* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Catania* (str.), *Afghanistan* (str.), *Mary L. Cushing*, *Adolph Obrig*, *Asama* (str.), *Afridi* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Futani Maru* (str.), *Chingtu* (str.).

For SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Arratoon Apcar* (str.).

For PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.—*St. Mark*.

For BALTIMORE AND NEW YORK.—*Reuce*.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

December—

- ARRIVALS.
2. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 2. Ingraban, German str., from Amoy.
 2. Taicheong, German str., from Saigon.
 2. Diamante, British str., from Manila.
 2. Empress of Japan, Brit str., from Vancouver.
 3. Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
 3. Taksang, British str., from Canton.
 3. Australian, British str., from Kobe.
 3. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 3. Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
 3. Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
 3. Fukui Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 3. Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
 3. Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
 3. Kachidate Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 3. Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 3. Canton, British str., from Canton.
 4. Loongsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 4. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 4. Woonung, British str., from Canton.
 4. Hanoi French str., from Haiphong.
 4. Kong Beng, British str., from Haiphong.
 4. Kiukiang, British str., from Wuhu.
 4. Venus, American str., from Manila.
 4. Zweena, British str., from Cheribon.
 5. Michael Jensen, German str., from Chefoo.
 5. Hansa, German cruiser, from Woonung.
 5. Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.

5. Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
5. Choyasang, British str., from Shanghai.
5. Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
5. Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.
5. Chunsang, British str., from Wuhu.
6. Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
6. Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
6. Hainan, German str., from Chefoo.
6. Swatow, German str., from Haiphong.
6. Brisk, British cruiser, from Shanghai.
6. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
6. Menmuir, British str., from Sourabaya.
6. Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
7. Taisang, British str., from Canton.
7. Masagon, British str., from Singapore.
7. Hangchow, British str., from Canton.
7. Airlie, British str., from Sydney.
7. Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
7. Amara, British str., from Shanghai.
7. Clyde, British str., from Shanghai.
7. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
8. Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
8. Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Canton.
8. Tategami Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
8. Thales, British str., from Taiwan.
8. Afridi, British str., from New York.
8. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
8. Fansang, British str., from Wuhu.
8. Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
8. Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
8. Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
8. Riojun Maru, Jap. str., from Seattle.
8. Szechuen, British str., from Chinkiang.

DEPARTURES.

2. Annam, French str., for Europe.
2. Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
2. Malacca, British str., for London.
2. Nanchang, British str., for Manila.
2. Queen Adelaide, British str., for Tacoma.
2. Diomed, British str., for Shanghai.
2. Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
2. Taisang, British str., for Canton.
2. Sarnia, German str., for Kiaochau.
2. Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
3. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
3. Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
3. Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
3. Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
3. Loongmoon, German str., for Swatow.
3. Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., for Canton.
3. Sabina Rickmers, Brit. str., for Foochow.
3. Sullberg, German str., for Honkohe.
3. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
3. Sociola, German str., for Saigon.
4. Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
4. Redpole, British g.-bt., for Shanghai.
4. Ernest Simons, Frren. str., for Shanghai.
4. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
4. Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
4. Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
4. Socotra, British str., for Nagasaki.
5. Legaspi, Spanish str., for Amoy.
5. Woonung, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Loongsang, British str., for Canton.
5. Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
5. Formosa, British str., for Tamsui.
5. Lady Joicey, British str., for S. Francisco.
5. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
5. Canton, British str., for Kobe.
5. Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
6. Pakhoi, British str., for Swatow.
6. Bygdo, Norwegian str., for Cebu.
6. Choyasang, British str., for Canton.
6. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
6. Michael Jensen, German str., for Canton.
6. Diamante, British str., for Manila.
7. Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
7. Benalder, British str., for Nagasaki.
7. Bamberg, German str., for Hamburg.
7. Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.
7. Taksang, British str., for Bangkok.
7. Kyote Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
7. Chowtai, British str., for Swatow.
7. Ingraban, German str., for Kobe.
7. Kong Beng, British str., for Haiphong.
7. Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
7. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
8. Progress, German str., for Vladivostok.
8. Zweena, British str., for Saigon.
8. Australian, British str., for Australia.
8. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for Karatsu.
8. Chwnshan, British str., for Singapore.
8. Amara, British str., for Canton.
8. Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
8. Ariake Maru, Jap str., for Kutchinotsu.

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